

DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE WITH NO DEPENDANT OR MINOR CHILD(REN) OR PROPERTY



Clay County Clerk of Court and Comptroller,
Tara S. Green

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Forms Checklist
- II. Standing Family Law Court Order
- III. Family Law Forms, Commentary, And Instructions General Information For SelfRepresented Litigants
- IV. 12.928 - Cover Sheet For Family Law Cases
- V. 12.900(a) – Disclosure From Nonlawyer
- VI. 12.990(b)(3) – Final Judgment Of Dissolution Of Marriage With No Property Or Dependent Or Minor Child(ren) (Uncontested)
- VII. 12.901(b)(3) – Petition For Dissolution Of Marriage With No Dependent Or Minor Child(ren) Or Property
- VIII. 12.902(b) – Family Law Financial Affidavit (Short Form)
- IX. 12.902(c) – Family Law Financial Affidavit (Long Form)
- X. 12.902(j) – Notice Of Social Security Number
- XI. 12.900(h) – Notice Of Related Cases
- XII. 12.910(a) – Summons: Personal Service On An Individual
- XIII. 12.910(b) - Process Service Memorandum
- XIV. 12.903(a) – Answer, Waiver, And Request For Copy Of Final Judgment Of Dissolution Of Marriage
- XV. 12.903(b) – Answer To Petition For Dissolution Of Marriage
- XVI. 12.903(c)(3) – Answer To Petition And Counter Petition For Dissolution Of Marriage
With No Dependent Or Minor Child(ren) Or Property
- XVII. 12.922(a) – Motion For Default
- XVIII. 12.922(b) – Default
- XIX. 12.912(b) – Affidavit Of Military Service
- XX. 12.913(a)(1) – Notice Of Action For Dissolution Of Marriage (No Child Or Financial Support)
- XXI. 12.913(b) – Affidavit Of Diligent Search And Inquiry
- XXII. List of Confidential Documents
- XXIII. Notice Of Confidential Information Within Court Filing
- XXIV. Motion To Determine The Confidentiality Of Trial Court Records
- XXV. Order On Motion To Determine Trial Court Records Confidential Pursuant To Florida Rule Of Judicial Administration 2.420(C)(9)
- XXVI. Designation of E-mail Address by a Party Not Represented by an Attorney

FAMILY COURT SERVICES
825 North Orange Avenue, Room 103
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

**CHECKLIST FOR: DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE WITH NO
CHILD(REN) OR PROPERTY**

You may obtain the following forms at:

www.flcourts.org - **(select)** - Self Help, Family Law Forms

Or

Purchase this packet in the Clerk's Office Room 1049

ALL FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED TO START YOUR CASE

- ☐ Form 12.901(b)(3)
 - Petition for Dissolution of Marriage with No Dependent or Minor Child(ren) or Property
- ☐ Form 12.900(h)
 - Notice of Related Cases
- ☐ Form 12.915
 - Designation of Current Address and E-mail Address
- ☐ Proof of Florida Residency
 - Florida Driver's License or Identification Card, Voter Registration Card
 - Or Form 12.902(i) – Affidavit of Corroborating Witness
- ☐ Four (4) standard no.10 envelopes, Include eight (8) postage stamps

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Fully complete the above forms.
2. Make sure your forms are notarized.
3. Make two (2) copies of each form.
4. File your original documents, completed and notarized in: **Room 1049 – Civil Clerk.**
5. The Clerk's Office will issue the Summons.

HOW TO SERVE THE OTHER PARTY...

☐ **Proof of Service using the Clay County Sheriff's Office:**

Bring the following COMPLETED forms to Room 1049 (Civil Clerk's Office) for a clerk to sign:

- Form 12.910(a) - Summons: Service on an Individual
- Form 12.910(b) - Process Service Memorandum

Once the Summons is issued by the clerk, take the following to the Sheriff's Office:

- (1) Copies of Filed Forms
- (2) Summons (Form 12.910(a)) as issued by the Civil Clerk
- (3) Process Service Memorandum (Form 12.910(b))
- (4) \$40.00 service fee to the Sheriff's Civil Process Unit

Clay County Sheriff's Civil Process Unit

825 North Orange Avenue, Room 101
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
(904) 213-6020

☐ **Proof of Service using Sheriff's Office OUTSIDE of Clay County**

If the other party lives outside of Clay County, **YOU MUST** mail or physically take your copied documents **including** the Summons; to the Sheriff's Office in the city/county/state where the other party lives.

You should contact the Sheriff's Office to determine the service fee, number of copies needed, and any other items they may require such as a self-addressed stamped envelope. If the other Party resides in Duval County, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Civil Process Unit is located at:

Sheriff's Civil Process Unit

5th Floor, Duval County Courthouse
Room 5141 (Exit out of elevators, turn left; JSO Badge on door)
Office Hours 8AM-4PM
Office Phone Number: 904-255-2470

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO THE PETITIONER

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY THE ATTACHED STANDING FAMILY LAW COURT ORDER SIGNED BY THE HONORABLE DON H. LESTER ON 05/06/2019. A COPY OF THE ATTACHED ORDER MUST BE SERVED BY SUMMONS OR CERTIFIED MAIL AND THE ATTACHED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE MUST BE FILED WITH PROOF OF SERVICE ATTACHED.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA

_____,
Plaintiff/Petitioner,
vs.
_____,
Defendant/Respondent.
_____/

CASE NO.:
DIVISION:

STANDING FAMILY LAW COURT ORDER

The following Standing Court Order (the “Order”) shall apply to all parties in an original action for dissolution of marriage, paternity, separate maintenance or annulment. It is beneficial to all parties that the Order become effective upon the petitioner upon filing of the petition and upon the respondent upon service of the summons and petition or upon waiver and acceptance of service. It is the Court’s intent that the Order remain in full force and effect during the pendency of this action, unless modified, terminated or amended by further order of the Court upon proper motion of either of the parties and after notice and hearing.

It is in the best interests of the parties in dissolution of marriage or paternity action to be informed of their rights, duties and responsibilities that apply during their dissolution of marriage or paternity proceeding, including, but not limited to, preservation of marital assets and compliance with court orders and applicable court rules. It is also important to act in the best interests of their children. It is therefore

ORDERED as follows:

IN ALL DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE ACTIONS:

DISSIPATION OF ASSETS: Neither party shall sell, transfer, encumber, conceal, assign, damage, remove or in any way dispose of any property, whether individually or jointly held, nor shall any party dissipate the value of an asset (such as, for example, encumbering real property with a mortgage) without the written consent of the other party, or without an order of the court, except in the ordinary course of business or in connection with customary and usual household expenses, or for reasonable attorney’s fees incurred in connection with this action. Neither party shall cancel, nor cause to be canceled, any utilities, including telephone, electric, or water and sewer if such cancellation would negatively affect the other party. Any party who violates this provision will be required to render an accounting and may be later sanctioned if found to have wasted or depleted a marital asset in violation of this Order.

ADDITIONAL DEBT: After this Order becomes effective, absent a court order or agreement of the parties, and with the exception of business debt incurred in the ordinary course of business or credit card debt that will be paid by the end of any applicable billing period,

neither party shall incur any debts, including, but not limited to, borrowing against any home equity credit line, encumbrance of marital assets, or cash advances against credit or bankcards.

INSURANCE POLICIES: Any insurance policies in effect at the time the petition was filed shall not be terminated, allowed to lapse, modified, borrowed against, pledged, or otherwise encumbered by either of the parties or at the direction of either party. This includes medical, hospital and/or dental insurance for the other party and/or the minor child(ren). Each party shall maintain all existing life insurance, automobile insurance, homeowner's or renter's insurance policies in full force and effect. Neither party shall change the beneficiaries of any existing life insurance policies. Each party shall maintain all existing insurance policies in full force and effect, without modification of their terms, unless agreed to in writing by both parties. All policy premiums will continue to be paid in full on a timely basis, unless there is an order of the court or a written agreement between the parties to the contrary.

SHARED PARENTAL REPOSIBILITY: These provisions shall apply unless there is a conflicting court order or allegations of domestic violence.

- a) If the parents of children live separately at the initiation of or during the dissolution proceedings, they shall assist their children in maintaining contact with both parties, consistent with the established family schedule. Such contact shall be in person, by telephone, audiovisual communications, and/or in writing.
- b) Neither party shall make any disparaging remarks about the other parent or question the child(ren) as to the other parent's private life. It is the child(ren)'s right to be spared from experiencing or witnessing any animosity or ill-feeling, if any should occur, between the parents. The minor child(ren) should be encouraged to maintain love, respect and affection for both parents.
- c) Neither parent shall conceal the whereabouts of the child(ren), and each parent shall keep the other advised at all times of the residential address and phone numbers where the child(ren) will be residing while with the other parent. Each parent shall notify the other immediately of any emergency pertaining to any child of the parties.
- d) Each party shall provide to the other party his or her residence address, work and cellular telephone numbers and e-mail address. Each party shall notify the other party, in writing, of any and all changes in his/her residence address, work and cellular telephone number(s) and e-mail address(es). Such notification shall be given within five (5) days of any such change and shall include the complete new address, telephone number(s) and/or email address(es).

PARENT RELOCATION FROM FAMILY HOME. If the parties have a child or children in common, a party vacating the marital residence shall notify the other party, or, if applicable, the other party's attorney, in writing, within forty-eight (48) hours of such move, of the address where the relocated party can receive communication. This provision shall not apply if there is a conflicting court order.

IN ALL DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (WITH DEPENDENT CHILD(REN) OR PATERNITY ACTIONS:

RELOCATION: Unless there is a prior court order, judgment or agreement signed by both parties to the contrary, neither party shall permanently remove, cause to be removed or permit the removal of any minor child(ren) of the parties to a location greater than fifty (50) miles from the principal residence of the parent. The intent of the restriction is not to prohibit temporary travel within the State of Florida. Neither party shall apply for any passport or passport services on behalf of any child(ren) without consent of the other parent or without an order of the court.

PARENTING COURSE: Pursuant to the administrative orders issued in the Fourth Judicial Circuit (Duval, Clay, and Nassau Counties) and pursuant to Section 61.21, Florida Statutes, all parties to a dissolution of marriage action with minor child(ren) or to a paternity proceeding shall complete a Parent Education and Family Stabilization Course, such as the Putting Children First in Divorce Course offered by Hope Haven (www.hope-haven.org/children-first-parenting-class); or Positive Divorce Resolution for the Children First in Divorce Class; or a similar qualified in-person program with Court approval.

In a dissolution action, the petitioner must complete the course within forty-five (45) days after the filing of the petition, and the respondent must complete the course within forty-five (45) days after service of the petition. In a paternity action, the petitioner must complete the course within forty-five (45) days after filing the petition, and the respondent must complete the course within forty-five (45) days after an acknowledgement of paternity by that party, an adjudication of paternity of the party, or an order granting time-sharing to that party. Within ten (10) days of completion of the course, each party must file a certificate of completion with the Court.

Non-compliance: If either party does not attend and complete the parenting course, the Court may enter an Order to Show Cause and schedule a hearing date. At the hearing, the non-complying party will be required to demonstrate why he or she has not attended the course. The Court may impose sanctions, to include, without limitation, a stay of proceedings, contempt or any other sanctions the Court finds just and permissible under Florida law.

NOTICE OF NO PRESUMPTION. If the parties have at least one minor child in common, the parties are notified that section 61.13(2)(c)(1), Florida Statutes, provides that: “[i]t is the public policy of this state that each minor child has frequent and continuing contact with both parents after the parents separate or the marriage of the parties is dissolved and to encourage parents to share the rights and responsibilities, and joys, of childrearing. There is no presumption for or against the father or mother of the child or for or against any specific time-sharing schedule when creating or modifying the parenting plan of the child.”

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE: In any case in which financial matters are at issue (such as child support, spousal support, equitable distribution or contempt proceeding regarding support), each party must file a financial affidavit and comply with the mandatory disclosure required by Rule 12.285 of the Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure. Pursuant to Section 61.30(2)(b), Florida Statutes, income shall be imputed to any party that fails to file a financial affidavit or fails to participate in the proceeding. The Court may sanction any party who, without good cause, fails, to satisfactorily comply with the rules pertaining to the production of financial records and other documents.

JUDICIAL ENFORCEMENT: Failure to comply with the terms of this Order may result in appropriate sanctions against the offending party, as permitted by Florida law.

SERVICE AND APPLICATIONS OF THIS ORDER: The Petitioner or Petitioner's attorney shall serve a copy of this Order with a copy of the petition and no later than five (5) days from the date of service file a certificate of service with the clerk of the court. This Order shall bind the Petitioner upon the filing of this action and shall become binding on the Respondent upon service of the initial pleading. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the court. Nothing in this Order shall preclude either party from applying to the Court for further temporary orders. This entire Order shall terminate upon the entry of a final judgment or upon dismissal of the case.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, at Green Cove Springs, Clay County, Florida
this 6th day of May, 2019.



DON H. LESTER, Administrative Judge

cc:

Petitioner
Respondent

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ATTACHED STANDING FAMILY COURT ORDER WAS
SERVED ON: _____

AT THE ADDRESS OF: _____

BY:

_____ CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT (# _____)

_____ SERVICE OF PROCESS (AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE ATTACHED)

ON _____ DAY OF _____, 20____.

SIGNATURE

DATE

FAMILY LAW FORMS, COMMENTARY, AND INSTRUCTIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS

(02/18)

You should read this General Information thoroughly before taking any other steps to file your case or represent yourself in court. Most of this information is **not** repeated in the attached forms. This information should provide you with an overview of the court system, its participants, and its processes. It should be useful whether you want to represent yourself in a pending matter or have a better understanding of the way family court works. **This is not intended as a substitute for legal advice from an attorney. Each case has its own particular set of circumstances, and an attorney may advise you of what is best for you in your individual situation.**

These instructions are not the only place that you can get information about how a family case works. You may want to look at other books for more help. The Florida Statutes, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, and other legal information or books may be found at the public library or in a law library at your county courthouse or a law school in your area. If you are filing a petition for **Name Change** and/or **Adoption**, these instructions may not apply.

If the word(s) is printed in **bold**, this means that the word is being emphasized. Throughout these instructions, you will also find words printed in **bold** and **underlined**. This means that the definitions of these words may be found in the glossary of common family law terms at the end of this general information section.

Commentary

1995 Adoption. To help the many people in family law court cases who do not have attorneys to represent them (pro se litigants), the Florida Supreme Court added these simplified forms and directions to the Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure. The directions refer to the Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure or the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure. Many of the forms were adapted from the forms accompanying the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure. Practitioners should refer to the committee notes for those forms for rule history.

The forms were adopted by the Court pursuant to *Family Law Rules of Procedure*, 667 So. 2d 202 (Fla. 1995); *In re Petition for Approval of Forms Pursuant to Rule 10-1.1(b) of the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar—Stepparent Adoption Forms*, 613 So. 2d 900 (Fla. 1992); *Rules Regulating the Florida Bar—Approval of Forms*, 581 So. 2d 902 (Fla. 1991).

Although the forms are part of these rules, they are not all inclusive and additional forms, as necessary, should be taken from the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure as provided in Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure. Also, the following notice has been included to strongly encourage individuals to seek the advice, when needed, of an attorney who is a member in good standing of the Florida Bar.

1997 Amendment. In 1997, the Florida Family Law Forms were completely revised to simplify and correct the forms. Additionally, the appendices were eliminated, the instructions contained in the appendices were incorporated into the forms, and the introduction following the Notice to Parties was created. Minor changes were also made to the Notice to Parties set forth below.

NOTICE TO PARTIES WHO ARE NOT REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY WHO IS A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE FLORIDA BAR

If you have questions or concerns about these forms, instructions, commentary, the use of the forms, or your legal rights, it is strongly recommended that you talk to an attorney. If you do not know an attorney, you should call the lawyer referral service listed in the yellow pages of the telephone book under "Attorney." If you do not have the money to hire an attorney, you should call the legal aid office in your area.

Because the law does change, the forms and information about them may have become outdated. You should be aware that changes may have taken place in the law or court rules that would affect the accuracy of the forms or instructions.

In no event will the Florida Supreme Court, The Florida Bar, or anyone contributing to the production of these forms or instructions be liable for any direct, indirect, or consequential damages resulting from their use.

FAMILY LAW PROCEDURES

Communication with the court. Ex parte communication is communication with the judge with only one party present. Judges are not allowed to engage in ex parte communication except in very limited circumstances, so, absent specific authorization to the contrary, you should not try to speak with or write to the judge in your case unless the other party is present or has been properly notified. **If you have something you need to tell the judge, you must ask for a hearing and give notice to the other party or file a written statement in the court file and send a copy of the written statement to the other party.**

Filing a case. A case begins with the filing of a petition. A petition is a written request to the court for some type of legal action. The person who originally asks for legal action is called the petitioner and remains the petitioner throughout the case.

A petition is given to the clerk of the circuit court, whose office is usually located in the county courthouse or a branch of the county courthouse. A case number is assigned and an official court file is opened. Delivering the petition to the clerk's office is called filing a case. A filing fee is usually required.

The Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file a petition or other pleadings, motions, and documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your petition electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the circuit within which you file. **The rules and procedures should be carefully read and followed.**

Service of the original petition or supplemental petition. When one party files a petition, motion, or other pleading, the other party must be "served" with a copy of the document. This means that the other party is given proper notice of the pending action(s) and any scheduled hearings. The person

against whom the original legal action is being requested is called the **respondent**, because he or she is expected to respond to the petition. The respondent remains the respondent throughout the case.

Personal service of the petition and summons on the respondent by a deputy sheriff or private process server is required in all **original petitions** and **supplemental petitions**, unless **constructive service** is permitted by law. Personal service may also be required in other actions by some judges.

Constructive Service. If you absolutely do not know where the other party to your case lives or if the other party resides in another state, you may be able to use **constructive service**; however, if constructive service is used, other than granting a divorce, the court may only grant limited relief, which cannot include either alimony or child support. For more information on constructive service, see **Notice of Action for Dissolution of Marriage (No Child or Financial Support)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.913(a)(1), **Notice of Action for Family Cases with Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.913(a)(2), **Affidavit of Diligent Search and Inquiry**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.913(b), and **Affidavit of Diligent Search**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.913(c).. Additionally, if the other party is in the military service of the United States, additional steps for service may be required. See, for example, **Memorandum for Certificate of Military Service**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.912(a). In sum, the law regarding constructive service and service on an individual in the military is very complex and you may wish to consult an attorney regarding these issues.

Forms for service of process are included in the Florida Family Law Forms, along with more detailed instructions and information regarding service. The instructions to those forms should be read **carefully** to ensure that you have properly served the other party. **If proper service is not obtained, the court cannot hear your case. Service must be in accordance with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516.**

Subsequent Service. Other than the original or supplemental petitions, any time you file additional pleadings or motions in your case, you must provide a copy to the other party and include a **certificate of service**. Likewise, the other party must provide you with copies of everything that he or she files. **If the other party is represented by an attorney, you should serve the attorney unless service upon the other party is required by the court.**

Electronic Service. After the initial service of process of the petitioner or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in certain circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Rules of Judicial Administration.** If you elect to participate in electronic service, which means serving or receiving pleadings by electronic mail (e-mail), or through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, you **must** review Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at www.flcourts.org through the link to the Rules of Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MAY SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO. If a self-represented litigant elects to serve and receive documents by e-mail, the procedures must always be followed once the initial election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915; and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516.

Default. After being served with a petition or counterpetition, the other party has 20 days to file a response. If a response to a petition is not filed, the petitioner may file a **Motion for Default**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.922(a), with the clerk. This means that you may proceed with your case and set a **final hearing**, and a **judge** will make a decision, even if the other party will not cooperate. For more information, see rule 12.080(c), Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure.

Answer and Counterpetition. After being served, the respondent has 20 days to file an answer admitting or denying each of the allegations contained in the petition. In addition to an answer, the respondent may also file a counterpetition. In a counterpetition, the respondent may request the same or some other relief or action not requested by the petitioner. If the respondent files a counterpetition, the petitioner should then file an **Answer to Counterpetition**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.903(d), and either admit or deny the allegations in the respondent's counterpetition.

Mandatory disclosure. Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires each party in a dissolution of marriage to exchange certain information and documents, and file a **Family Law Financial Affidavit**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(b) or (c). Failure to make this required disclosure within the time required by the Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure may allow the court to dismiss the case or to refuse to consider the pleadings of the party failing to comply. This requirement also must be met in other family law cases, **except** adoptions, simplified dissolutions of marriage, enforcement proceedings, contempt proceedings, and proceedings for injunctions for domestic or repeat violence. The **Certificate of Compliance with Mandatory Disclosure**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.932, lists the documents that must be given to the other party. For more information see rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, and the instructions to the **Certificate of Compliance with Mandatory Disclosure**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.932.

Parenting Plan. If your case involves minor or dependent child(ren), a **Parenting Plan** shall be approved or established by the court. **Parenting Plan**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form, 12.995(a), **Safety-Focused Parenting Plan**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.995(b), or **Relocation/Long Distance Parenting Plan**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.995(c). The Parenting Plan shall be developed and agreed to by the parents and approved by a court.

If the parents cannot agree, or if the agreed Parenting Plan is not approved, the court must establish a Parenting Plan. The Parenting Plan shall contain a time-sharing schedule and should address the issues regarding the child(ren)'s education, health care, and physical, social, and emotional well-being.

Setting a hearing or trial. Generally, the court will have hearings on motions, final hearings on uncontested or default cases, and trials on contested cases. Before setting your case for **final hearing** or trial, certain requirements such as completing mandatory disclosure and filing certain papers and having them served on the other party must be met. These requirements vary depending on the type of case and the procedures in your particular jurisdiction. For further information, you should refer to the instructions for the type of form you are filing.

Next, you must obtain a hearing or trial date so that the court may consider your request. You should ask the clerk of court, or **family law intake staff** about the local procedure for setting a hearing or trial, which you should attend. These family law forms contain **orders** and **final judgments**, which the judge may use. You should ask the clerk of court or family law intake staff if you need to bring one of these forms with you to the hearing or trial. If so, you should type or print the heading, including the circuit, county, case number, division, and the parties' names, and leave the rest blank for the judge to complete at your hearing or trial.

The shaded areas below explain different parts of family law forms. Although each form you use may not contain each part explained below, all forms contain a case style which identifies the judicial circuit and county in Florida in which the case is filed, the division within that circuit to which the case is assigned, the parties in the case, and the number of the case. Some, but not all, forms require that the person signing the form state under oath that what he or she claims in the form is true; those particular forms must be signed in the presence of either a deputy clerk of the court or a notary public who witnesses your signature before notarizing the form. Most forms contain a nonlawyer clause which requests certain information be provided by any person who is not licensed to practice law in the State of Florida who has helped you to complete the form.

2

Each form that provides a blank space will have instructions on how to fill in the blank. Please follow all instructions which ask for specific information. Often these instructions appear in *italics*. [

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE (1) JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR (2) COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: (3)
Division: (4)

(5) _____ ,
Petitioner,
and
(6) _____ ,
Respondent.

- Line 1** The clerk of court can tell you the number of your judicial circuit. Type or print it here.
- Line 2** Type or print your county name on line (2).
- Line 3** If you are filing an initial petition or pleading, the Clerk of the Court will assign a case number after the case is filed. You should type or print this case number on all papers you file in this case.
- Line 4** The clerk of the court can tell you the name of the division in which your case is being filed, and you should type or print it here. Divisions vary from court to court. For example, your case may be filed in the civil division, the family division, or the juvenile division.
- Line 5** Type or print the legal name of the person who originally filed the case on line 5. This person is the petitioner because he/she is the one who filed the original petition.
- Line 6** Type or print the other party's legal name on line 6. The other party is the respondent because he/she is responding to the petition.

Some forms require that your signature be witnessed. If so, you must sign the form in the presence of a **notary public** or deputy clerk (employee of the clerk of the court's office). When signing the form, you must have a valid photo identification unless the notary knows you personally. You should completely fill in all lines (1 & 3–8) except 2 with the requested information, if applicable. **Line 2, the signature line,**

must be signed in the presence of the notary public or deputy clerk. **DO NOT SIGN OR FILL IN THE PART OF THE FORM WHICH ASKS FOR THE NOTARY'S OR CLERK'S SIGNATURE.** This section of the form is to be completed by either the deputy clerk or the notary public who is witnessing your signature.

I understand that I am swearing or affirming under oath to the truthfulness of the claims made in this petition and that the punishment for knowingly making a false statement includes fines and/or imprisonment.

Dated: _____ (1)

_____ (2)

(2)

Signature of Petitioner

Printed Name:

_____ (3)

Address:

_____ (4)

City, State, Zip: _____ (5)

Telephone Number: _____ (6)

Fax Number: _____ (7)

Designated E-mail Address(es): _____ (8)

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to or affirmed and signed before me on _____ by _____.

NOTARY PUBLIC or DEPUTY CLERK

{Print, type, or stamp commissioned name of notary or clerk.}

_____ Personally known

_____ Produced identification

_____ Type of identification produced _____

Non-lawyer Clause. The section below should be completed by anyone who helps you fill out these forms but is **not** an attorney who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar, which means that he or she is not licensed to practice law in Florida.

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:

[fill in **all** blanks] This form was prepared for the: {either Petitioner or Respondent; or Husband or Wife}

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual} _____ (1) _____,
{name of business} _____ (2) _____,
{address} _____ (3) _____,
{city} _____ (4) _____, {state} _____ (5) _____, {zip code} _____ (6) _____, {telephone number} _____ (7) _____.

Line 1 The nonlawyer who helps you should type or print his or her name on line 1.

Lines 2–7 The nonlawyer’s business name, address, (including street, city, state, zip code, and telephone number) should be typed or printed on lines 2–7.

In addition, a **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900(a), should be completed if a nonlawyer assists you. The disclosure is available as a family law form and should be completed before the nonlawyer helps you. This is to be sure that you understand the role and limitations of a nonlawyer. You and the nonlawyer should keep a copy of this disclosure for your records.

FAMILY LAW GLOSSARY OF COMMON TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Note: The following definitions are intended to be helpful, BUT they are not intended to constitute legal advice or address every possible meaning of the term(s) contained in this glossary.

Affidavit - a written statement in which the facts stated are sworn or affirmed to be true.

Alimony-spousal support which may be ordered by the court in a proceeding for dissolution of marriage. Types of alimony include: bridge-the-gap, durational, rehabilitative, or retroactive, and may be either temporary or permanent. The court may order periodic payments, payments in lump sum, or both. In determining whether to award alimony, the court must determine whether either party has an actual need for alimony and whether the other party has the ability to pay. The court must consider the factors set forth in section 61.08, Florida Statutes, and must make certain written findings. An alimony award may not leave the paying party with significantly less net income than that of the receiving party without written findings of exceptional circumstances.

Answer - written response by a respondent that states whether he or she admits (agrees with) or denies (disagrees with) the allegations in the petition. Any allegations not specifically denied are considered to be admitted.

Appeal - asking a district court of appeal to review the decision in your case. There are strict procedural and time requirements for filing an appeal.

Asset - everything owned by you or your spouse, including property, cars, furniture, bank accounts, jewelry, life insurance policies, businesses, or retirement plans. An asset may be marital or nonmarital, but that distinction is for the court to determine if you and your spouse do not agree.

Attorney - a person with special education and training in the field of law who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and licensed to practice law in Florida. An attorney is the only person who is allowed to give you legal advice. An attorney may file your case and represent you in court, or just advise you of your rights before you file your own case. In addition to advising you of your rights, an attorney may tell you what to expect and help prepare you for court. In family law matters, you are not entitled to a court-appointed lawyer, like a public defender in a criminal case. However, legal assistance is often available for those who are unable to hire a private attorney. You may consult the yellow pages of the telephone directory for a listing of legal aid or lawyer referral services in your area, or ask your local clerk of court or family law intake staff what services are available in your area. You may also obtain information from the Florida Supreme Court's Internet site located at <http://www.flcourts.org>.

Bond - money paid to the clerk of court by one party in a case, to be held and paid to an enjoined party in the event that the first party causes loss or damage of property as a result of wrongfully enjoining the other party.

Beneficiary Designation-Florida law provides that a beneficiary designation made by or on behalf of a party providing for the payment or transference of an asset or benefit upon his or her death to the other spouse is void when the final judgment dissolving or declaring a marriage invalid is signed, unless the final judgment specifically states otherwise. Federal law and other statutory provisions may also apply. This includes, but is not limited to, such assets as life insurance policies, annuities, employee benefit plans, individual retirement accounts, and payable-on-death accounts. Whether or not to continue a beneficiary designation is a complex area of the law and you may wish to consult with an attorney.

Bridge-the-Gap Alimony-spousal support which is ordered to assist a party to make the transition from being married to being single. Bridge-the-Gap alimony is designed to assist a party with legitimate, identifiable short-time needs; its length cannot exceed two years and it cannot be modified.

Central Depository-the office of the clerk of court that is responsible for collecting and disbursing court ordered alimony and child support payments. The depository also keeps payment records and files judgments if support is not paid.

Certificate of Service - a document that must be filed whenever a form you are using does not contain a statement for you to fill in showing to whom you are sending copies of the form. Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914 is the certificate of service form and contains additional instructions.

Certified Copy - a copy of an order or final judgment, certified by the clerk of the circuit court to be an authentic copy.

Certified Mail - mail which requires the receiving party to sign as proof that they received it.

Child Support - money paid from one parent to the other for the benefit of their dependent or minor child(ren).

Clerk of the Circuit Court - elected official in whose office papers are filed, a case number is assigned, and case files are maintained. The clerk's office usually is located in the county courthouse.

Concurrent Custody-(for the purposes of a petition filed pursuant to chapter 751, Florida Statutes) means that an eligible extended family member is awarded custodial rights to care for a child or children concurrently with the child(ren)'s parent or parents.

Constructive Service - notification of the other party by newspaper publication or posting of notice at designated places when the other party cannot be located for personal service. You may also be able to use constructive service when the other party lives in another state. Constructive service is also called "service by publication." However, when constructive service is used, the relief the Court may grant is limited; that relief cannot include either alimony or child support. For more information on service, see the instructions for Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Forms 12.910(a) and 12.913(b) and Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Forms 12.913(a)(1) and (2).

Contested Issues - any or all issues upon which the parties are unable to agree and which must be resolved by the judge at a hearing or trial.

Contingent Asset - an asset that you **may** receive or get later, such as income, tax refund, accrued vacation or sick leave, a bonus, or an inheritance.

Contingent Liability - a liability that you **may** owe later, such as payments for lawsuits, unpaid taxes, or debts that you have agreed or guaranteed to pay if someone else does not.

Counterpetition - a written request to the court for legal action, which is filed by a respondent after being served with a petition.

Custody Order – a judgment or order incorporating a Parenting Plan is a child custody determination for the purposes of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, the International Child Abduction Remedies Act, 42 U.S.C. ss. 11601 et seq., the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act, and the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction enacted at the Hague on October 25, 1980.

Default - a failure of a party to respond to the pleading of another party. This failure to respond may allow the court to decide the case without input from the party who did not appear or respond.

Delinquent - late.

Dependent Child(ren) - child(ren) who depend on their parent(s) for support either because they are under the age of 18, have a mental or physical disability that prevents them from supporting themselves, or are in high school, between the ages of 18 and 19, and performing in good faith with a reasonable expectation of graduation before the age of 19.

Deputy Clerk - an employee of the office of the clerk of court, which is usually located in the county courthouse or a branch of the county courthouse.

Dissolution of Marriage - divorce; a court action to end a marriage.

Durational Alimony-spousal support which is ordered to provide economic assistance for a set period of time following a marriage of short or moderate duration or following a marriage of long duration if there is no ongoing need for support on a permanent basis. Durational alimony terminates upon the death of either party or upon remarriage of the party receiving support. It may be modified or terminated, but cannot exceed the length of a marriage.

Electronic Communication – Contact, other than face-to-face contact, facilitated by tools such as telephones, electronic mail or email, webcams, video-conferencing equipment and software or other wired or wireless technologies, or other means of communication to supplement fact-to face contact between a parent and that parent’s minor child.

Enjoined - prohibited by the court from doing a specific act.

Ex Parte - communication with the judge by only one party. In order for a judge to speak with either party, the other party must have been properly notified and have an opportunity to be heard. If you have something you wish to tell the judge, you should ask for a hearing or file information in the clerk of court’s office, with certification that a copy was sent to the other party.

Extended Family Member-(for the purposes of a petition filed pursuant to chapter 751, Florida Statutes) is a person who is either:

- 1) A relative of a minor child within the third degree by blood or marriage to the parent; OR
- 2) The stepparent of a minor child if the stepparent is currently married to the parent of the child and is not a party in a pending dissolution, separate maintenance, domestic violence, or other civil or criminal proceeding in any court of competent jurisdiction involving one or both of the child’s parents as an adverse party.

Family Law Intake Staff - a court’s employee(s) who is (are) available to assist you in filing a family law case. Family law intake staff are not attorneys and cannot give legal advice. They may only assist you with filling out the form(s). Your local clerk’s office can tell you if your county has such assistance available.

Filing - delivering a petition, response, motion, or other pleading in a court case to the clerk of court’s office.

Filing Fee - an amount of money, set by law, that the petitioner must pay when filing a case. If you cannot afford to pay the fee, you must file an **Application for Determination of Civil Indigent Status**, to ask the clerk to file your case without payment of the fee. This form can be obtained from the clerk’s office.

Final Hearing - trial in your case.

Financial Affidavit - a sworn statement that contains information regarding your income, expenses, assets, and liabilities.

Final Judgment - a written document signed by a judge and recorded in the clerk of the circuit court’s office that contains the judge’s decision in your case.

Guardian ad Litem - a neutral person who may be appointed by the court to evaluate or investigate your child’s situation, and file a report with the court about what is in the best interests of your child(ren). Guardians do not “work for” either party. The guardian may interview the parties, visit their homes,

visit the child(ren)'s school(s) and speak with teachers, or use other resources to make their recommendation.

Hearing - a legal proceeding before a judge or designated officer (general magistrate or hearing officer) on a motion.

Health Insurance - coverage under a fee-for-service arrangement, health care maintenance organization, or preferred provider organization, and other types of coverage available to either parent, under which medical services could be provided to a minor or dependent child.

Judge - an elected official who is responsible for deciding matters on which you and the other parties in your case are unable to agree. A judge is a neutral person who is responsible for ensuring that your case is resolved in a manner which is fair, equitable, and legal. **A judge is prohibited by law from giving you or the other party any legal advice, recommendations, or other assistance, and may not talk to either party unless both parties are present, represented, or at a properly scheduled hearing.**

Judicial Assistant - the judge's personal staff assistant.

Liabilities - everything owed by you or your spouse, including mortgages, credit cards, or car loans. A liability may be marital or nonmarital, but that distinction is for the court to determine if you and your spouse do not agree.

Lump Sum Alimony - money ordered to be paid by one spouse to another in a limited number of payments, often a single payment.

Mandatory Disclosure - items that must be disclosed by both parties except those exempted from disclosure by Florida Family Law Rule 12.285.

Marital Asset - generally, anything that you and/or your spouse acquired or received (by gift or purchase) during the marriage. For example, something you owned before your marriage **may** be nonmarital. An asset may only be determined to be marital by agreement of the parties or determination of the judge.

Marital Liability - generally, any debt that you and/or your spouse incurred during the marriage. A debt may only be determined to be nonmarital by agreement of the parties or determination of the judge.

Mediator - a person who is trained and certified to assist parties in reaching an agreement before going to court. Mediators do not take either party's side and are not allowed to give legal advice. They are only responsible for helping the parties reach an agreement and putting that agreement into writing. In some areas, mediation of certain family law cases may be required before going to court.

Modification - a change made by the court in an order or final judgment.

Motion - a request made to the court, other than a petition.

No Contact - a court order directing a party not speak to, call, send mail to, visit, or go near his or her spouse, ex-spouse, child(ren), or other family member.

Nonlawyer - a person who is not a member in good standing of The Florida Bar.

Nonmarital Asset - generally, anything owned separately by you or your spouse. An asset may only be determined to be nonmarital by either agreement of the parties or determination of the judge.

Nonmarital Liability - generally, any debt that you or your spouse incurred before your marriage or since your separation. A debt may only be determined to be nonmarital by either agreement of the parties or determination of the judge.

Nonparty - a person who is not the petitioner or respondent in a court case.

Notary Public - a person authorized to witness signatures on court related forms.

Obligee - a person to whom money, such as child support or alimony, is owed.

Obligor - a person who is ordered by the court to pay money, such as child support or alimony.

Order - a written decision, signed by a judge and filed in the clerk of the circuit court's office that contains the judge's decision on part of your case, usually on a motion.

Original Petition - see **Petition**.

Parenting Course - a class that teaches parents how to help their child(ren) cope with divorce and other family issues.

Parenting Plan – a document created to govern the relationship between the parents relating to the decisions that must be made regarding the minor child(ren). The Parenting Plan must contain a time-sharing schedule for the parents and child(ren) and shall address the issues concerning the minor child(ren). The issues concerning the minor child(ren) may include, but are not limited to, the child(ren)'s education, health care, and physical, social, and emotional well-being. In creating the Plan, all circumstances between the parents, including their historic relationship, domestic violence, and other factors must be taken into consideration. The Parenting Plan must be developed and agreed to by the parents and approved by the court. If the parents cannot agree to a Parenting Plan, or if the parents agreed to a plan that is not approved by the court, a Parenting Plan will be established by the court with or without the use of **parenting plan recommendations**.

Parenting Plan Recommendation – A nonbinding recommendation concerning one or more elements of a Parenting Plan made by a court-appointed mental health practitioner or other professional designated pursuant to either section 61.20 or 61.401, Florida Statutes, or Florida Family Law Rule of Procedure 12.363.

Party - a person involved in a court case, either as a petitioner or respondent.

Paternity Action - A lawsuit used to determine whether a designated individual is the father of a specific child or children.

Payor - an employer or other person who provides income to an obligor.

Permanent Alimony - spousal support ordered to provide for the needs and necessities of life as they were established during the marriage for a party who lacks the financial ability to meet his or her needs and necessities after dissolution of marriage. Permanent alimony is paid at a specified, periodic rate until: modification by a court order; the death of either party; or the remarriage of the party receiving alimony, whichever occurs first. Permanent alimony requires consideration of the factors set forth in section 61.08(2), Florida Statutes, and must include certain written findings by the court.

Personal Service - when a summons and a copy of a petition (or other pleading) that has been filed with the court are delivered by a deputy sheriff or private process server to the other party. Personal service is required for all petitions and supplemental petitions.

Petition - a written request to the court for legal action, which begins a court case.

Petitioner - the person who originally files a petition that begins a court case. The Petitioner remains the Petitioner throughout the duration of the case.

Pleading - a formal, written statement of exactly what a party wants the court to do in a lawsuit or court action.

Pro Se or Self-Represented Litigant - a person who appears in court without the assistance of a lawyer.

Pro Se Coordinator - see **Family Law Intake Staff**.

Rehabilitative Alimony - spousal support ordered to be paid for a limited period of time to allow one of the parties an opportunity to complete a plan of education or training, according to a rehabilitative plan accepted by the court, so that he or she may better support himself or herself after dissolution of marriage.

Relocation- a change in the location of the principal residence of a parent or other person in accordance with section 61.13001, Florida Statutes.

Respondent - the person who is served with a petition requesting some legal action against him or her. The Respondent remains the Respondent throughout the duration of the case.

Scientific Paternity Testing - a medical test to determine the biological father of a child

Service - the delivery of legal documents to a party. Service must be in accordance with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516.

Shared Parental Responsibility - an arrangement under which both parents have full parental rights and responsibilities for their child(ren), and the parents make major decisions affecting the welfare of the child(ren) jointly. Shared Parental Responsibility is presumptive in Florida.

Sole Parental Responsibility - a parenting arrangement under which the responsibility for the minor child(ren) is given to one parent by the court, with or without rights of time-sharing to the other parent.

State Disbursement Unit- the unit established and operated by the Title IV-D agency to provide one central address for the collection and disbursement of child support payments made in both Department of Revenue and non-Department of Revenue cases, in which the obligation is paid through an income deduction order.

Supervised Time-Sharing- a parenting arrangement under which time-sharing between a parent and his or her child(ren) is supervised by either a friend, family member, or a supervised visitation center.

Supplemental Petition - a petition that may be filed by either party after the judge has made a decision in a case and a final judgment or order has been entered. For example, a supplemental petition may be used to request that the court modify the previously entered final judgment or order.

Supportive Relationship-a relationship, defined in section 61.14(1)(b)1, Florida Statutes, existing between an obligee who receives alimony and a person with whom that obligee resides.

Time-Sharing Schedule – a timetable that must be included in the Parenting Plan that specifies the time, including overnights and holidays that a minor child or children will spend with each parent. The time-sharing schedule shall either be developed and agreed to by the parents of a minor child or children and is approved by the court, or established by the court if the parents cannot agree, or if their agreed-upon schedule is not approved by the court.

Trial - the final hearing in a contested case.

Uncontested - any and all issues on which the parties are able to agree and which are part of a marital settlement agreement.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA FAMILY LAW RULES OF PROCEDURE
FORM 12.928
COVER SHEET FOR FAMILY COURT CASES (10/21)**

When should this form be used?

The Cover Sheet for Family Court Cases and the information contained in it does not replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other documents as required by law. This form shall be filed by the petitioner/party opening or reopening a case for the use of the **clerk of the circuit court** for the purpose of reporting judicial workload data pursuant to Florida Statutes section 25.075.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. The petitioner must **file** this cover sheet with the first pleading or motion filed to open or reopen a case in all domestic and juvenile cases.

What should I do next?

Follow these instructions for completing the form:

- I. Case Style. Enter the name of the court, the appropriate case number assigned at the time of filing of the original petition, the name of the judge assigned (if applicable), and the name (last, first, middle initial) of the petitioner(s) and respondent(s).
- II. Type of Action /Proceeding. Place a check beside the proceeding you are initiating. If you are filing more than one type of proceeding, (such as a modification and an enforcement proceeding) against the same party at the same time, then you must complete a separate cover sheet for each action being filed.
 - (A) Initial Action/Petition
 - (B) Reopening Case. If you check "Reopening Case," indicate whether you are filing a modification or supplemental petition or an action for enforcement by placing a check beside the appropriate action/petition.
 1. Modification/Supplemental Petition
 2. Motion for Civil Contempt/ Enforcement
 3. Other – All reopening actions not involving modification/supplemental petitions or petition enforcement.
- III. Type of Case. Place a check beside the appropriate case. If the case fits more than one category, select the most definitive. Definitions of the categories are provided below.
 - (A) Simplified Dissolution of Marriage- petitions for the termination of marriage pursuant to Florida Family Law Rule of Procedure 12.105.
 - (B) Dissolution of Marriage - petitions for the termination of marriage pursuant to Chapter 61, Florida Statutes, other than simplified dissolution.

- (C) Domestic Violence - all matters relating to injunctions for protection against domestic violence pursuant to section 741.30, Florida Statutes.
- (D) Dating Violence - all matters relating to injunctions for protection against dating violence pursuant to section 784.046, Florida Statutes.
- (E) Repeat Violence - all matters relating to injunctions for protection against repeat violence pursuant to section 784.046, Florida Statutes.
- (F) Sexual Violence - all matters relating to injunctions for protection against sexual violence pursuant to section 784.046, Florida Statutes.
- (G) Stalking-all matters relating to injunctions for protection against stalking pursuant to section 784.0485, Florida Statutes
- (H) Support - IV-D - all matters relating to child or spousal support in which an application for assistance has been filed with the Department of Revenue, Child Support Enforcement under Title IV-D, Social Security Act, except for such matters relating to dissolution of marriage petitions (sections 409.2564, 409.2571, and 409.2597, Florida Statutes), paternity, or UIFSA.
- (I) Support-Non IV-D - all matters relating to child or spousal support in which an application for assistance has **not** been filed under Title IV-D, Social Security Act.
- (J) UIFSA- IV-D - all matters relating to Chapter 88, Florida Statutes, in which an application for assistance has been filed under Title IV-D, Social Security Act.
- (K) UIFSA - Non IV-D - all matters relating to Chapter 88, Florida Statutes, in which an application for assistance has **not** been filed under Title IV-D, Social Security Act.
- (L) Other Family Court - all matters involving time-sharing and/or parenting plans relating to minor child(ren), support unconnected with dissolution of marriage, annulment, delayed birth certificates pursuant to Florida Statutes section 382.0195, expedited affirmation of parental status pursuant to Florida Statutes section 742.16, termination of parental rights proceedings pursuant to Florida Statutes section 63.087, declaratory judgment actions related to premarital, marital, post-marital agreements, or other matters not included in the categories above.
- (M) Adoption Arising Out Of Chapter 63 - all matters relating to adoption pursuant to Chapter 63, Florida Statutes, excluding any matters arising out of Chapter 39, Florida Statutes.
- (N) Name Change - all matters relating to name change, pursuant to section 68.07, Florida Statutes.
- (O) Paternity/Disestablishment of Paternity – all matters relating to paternity pursuant to Chapter 742, Florida Statutes.
- (P) Juvenile Delinquency - all matters relating to juvenile delinquency pursuant to Chapter 985, Florida Statutes.
- (Q) Petition for Dependency - all matters relating to petitions for dependency.
- (R) Shelter Petition – all matters relating to shelter petitions pursuant to Chapter 39, Florida Statutes.
- (S) Termination of Parental Rights Arising Out Of Chapter 39 – all matters relating to termination of parental rights pursuant to Chapter 39, Florida Statutes.
- (T) Adoption Arising Out Of Chapter 39 – all matters relating to adoption pursuant to Chapter 39, Florida Statutes.
- (U) CINS/FINS – all matters relating to children in need of services (and families in need of services) pursuant to Chapter 984, Florida Statutes.

- (V) Petition for Temporary or Concurrent Custody by Extended Family-all matters relating to petitions for temporary or concurrent custody pursuant to Chapter 751.
- (W) Emancipation of a Minor-all matters relating to emancipation of a minor pursuant to Chapter 743.

ATTORNEY OR PARTY SIGNATURE. Sign the Cover Sheet for Family Court Cases. Print legibly the name of the person signing the Cover Sheet for Family Court Cases. Attorneys must include a Florida Bar number. Insert the date the Cover Sheet for Family Court Cases is signed. Signature is a certification that filer has provided accurate information on the Cover Sheet for Family Court Cases.

Nonlawyer Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900(a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

A copy of this form must be filed with the court and served on the other party or his or her attorney. The copy you are serving to the other party must be either mailed, e-mailed, or hand-delivered to the opposing party or his or her attorney on the same day indicated on the certificate of service. If it is mailed, it must be postmarked on the date indicated in the certificate of service.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-FILING

The Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration now require that all petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file petitions or other pleadings or documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your pleadings or other documents electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the judicial circuit in which you file. The rules and procedures should be carefully read and followed.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-SERVICE ELECTION

After the initial service of process of the petition or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in certain circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration.** If you elect to participate in electronic service, which means serving or receiving pleadings by electronic mail (e-mail), or through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, you must review Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at www.flcourts.org through the link to the Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MAY SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO. If a self-represented litigant elects to serve and receive documents by email, the procedures must always be followed once the initial election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General), Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915;** and Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516.

Where can I look for more information?

Before proceeding, you should read “General Information for Self-Represented Litigants” found at the beginning of these forms. For further information, see Rule 12.100, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure.

COVER SHEET FOR FAMILY COURT CASES

I. Case Style

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____

Judge: _____

Petitioner,

and

Respondent.

II. Type of Action/Proceeding. Place a check beside the proceeding you are initiating. If you are filing more than one type of proceeding (such as a modification and an enforcement proceeding) against the same party at the same time, then you must complete a separate cover sheet for each action being filed. **If you are reopening a case, choose one of the three options below it.**

- (A) ____ Initial Action/Petition
- (B) ____ Reopening Case
 - 1. ____ Modification/Supplemental Petition
 - 2. ____ Motion for Civil Contempt/Enforcement
 - 3. ____ Other

III. Type of Case. If the case fits more than one type of case, select the most definitive.

- (A) ____ Simplified Dissolution of Marriage
- (B) ____ Dissolution of Marriage
- (C) ____ Domestic Violence
- (D) ____ Dating Violence
- (E) ____ Repeat Violence
- (F) ____ Sexual Violence
- (G) ____ Stalking
- (H) ____ Support IV-D (Department of Revenue, Child Support Enforcement)
- (I) ____ Support Non-IV-D (**not** Department of Revenue, Child Support Enforcement)
- (J) ____ UIFSA IV-D (Department of Revenue, Child Support Enforcement)
- (K) ____ UIFSA Non-IV-D (**not** Department of Revenue, Child Support Enforcement)
- (L) ____ Other Family Court
- (M) ____ Adoption Arising Out Of Chapter 63
- (N) ____ Name Change

- (O) ____ Paternity/Disestablishment of Paternity
- (P) ____ Juvenile Delinquency
- (Q) ____ Petition for Dependency
- (R) ____ Shelter Petition
- (S) ____ Termination of Parental Rights Arising Out Of Chapter 39
- (T) ____ Adoption Arising Out Of Chapter 39
- (U) ____ CINS/FINS
- (V) ____ Petition for Temporary or Concurrent Custody by Extended Family
- (W) ____ Emancipation of a Minor

IV. Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.545(d) requires that a Notice of Related Cases Form, Family Law Form 12.900(h), be filed with the initial pleading/petition by the filing attorney or self-represented litigant in order to notify the court of related cases. Is Form 12.900(h) being filed with this Cover Sheet for Family Court Cases and initial pleading/petition?

____ No, to the best of my knowledge, no related cases exist.
 ____ Yes, all related cases are listed on Family Law Form 12.900(h).

ATTORNEY OR PARTY SIGNATURE

I CERTIFY that the information I have provided in this cover sheet is accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature _____ FL Bar No.: _____
 Attorney or party (Bar number, if attorney)

 (Type or print name)

 (E-mail Address(es))

 Date

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS

BELOW: [fill in **all** blanks]

This form was prepared for the: {choose only **one**} ____ Petitioner ____ Respondent

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual} _____,

{name of business} _____,

{address} _____,

{city} _____, {state} _____, {zip code} _____, {telephone number} _____.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA FAMILY LAW RULES OF PROCEDURE
FORM 12.900(a)
DISCLOSURE FROM NONLAWYER (11/12)**

When should this form be used?

This form must be used when anyone who is **not** a lawyer in good standing with The Florida Bar helps you complete any Florida Family Law Form. Attorneys who are licensed to practice in other states but not Florida, or who have been disbarred or suspended from the practice of law in Florida, are nonlawyers for the purposes of the Florida Family Law Forms and instructions.

The nonlawyer must complete this form and both of you are to sign it before the nonlawyer assists you in completing any Family Law Form.

In addition, on any other form with which a nonlawyer helps you, the nonlawyer shall complete the nonlawyer section located at the bottom of the form unless otherwise specified in the instructions to the form. This is to protect you and be sure that you are informed in advance of the nonlawyer's limitations.

What should I do next?

A copy of this disclosure, signed by both the nonlawyer and the person, must be given to the person to retain and the nonlawyer must keep a copy in the person's file. The nonlawyer shall also keep copies for at least 6 years of all forms given to the person being assisted.

Special Notes

This disclosure form does **NOT** act as or constitute a waiver, disclaimer, or limitation of liability.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____

Division: _____

_____,
Petitioner,

and

_____,
Respondent.

DISCLOSURE FROM NONLAWYER

{Name} _____ told me that he/she is a nonlawyer and may not give legal advice, cannot tell me what my rights or remedies are, cannot tell me how to testify in court, and cannot represent me in court.

Rule 10-2.1(b) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar defines a paralegal as a person who works under the supervision of a member of The Florida Bar and who performs specifically delegated substantive legal work for which a member of The Florida Bar is responsible. Only persons who meet the definition may call themselves paralegals. {Name} _____, informed me that he/she is not a paralegal as defined by the rule and cannot call himself/herself a paralegal.

{Name} _____, told me that he/she may only type the factual information provided by me in writing into the blanks on the form. Except for typing, {name} _____, may not tell me what to put in the form and may not complete the form for me. However, if using a form approved by the Supreme Court of Florida, {name} _____, may ask me factual questions to fill in the blanks on the form and may also tell me how to file the form.

{Choose **one** only}

_____ I can read English.

_____ I cannot read English, but this disclosure was read to me [fill in **both** blanks] by
{name} _____ in {language} _____, which I understand.

Dated: _____

Signature of Party

Signature of **NONLAWYER**

Printed Name: _____

Name of Business: _____

Address: _____

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____

Division: _____

IN RE: The Marriage of:

_____,
Petitioner,

and

_____,
Respondent.

FINAL JUDGMENT OF DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE WITH NO PROPERTY OR DEPENDENT OR MINOR CHILD(REN) (UNCONTESTED)

This cause came before this Court for a hearing on a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage. The Court, having reviewed the file and heard the testimony, makes these findings of fact and reaches these conclusions of law:

FINDINGS:

1. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter and the parties.
2. At least one party has been a resident of the State of Florida for more than 6 months immediately before filing the Petition for Dissolution of Marriage.
3. The parties have no minor or dependent children in common, no children born to either spouse during the marriage remain minor or dependent, and neither spouse is pregnant.
4. The marriage between the parties is irretrievably broken.
5. There are no marital assets or marital liabilities for the court to divide.
6. *{If applicable}* _____ Petitioner _____ Respondent requests that his/her former name of *{full legal name}* _____ be restored.

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED:

- A. The marriage between the parties is dissolved and the parties are restored to the status of being single.

B. _____Petitioner's _____Respondent's former name of
{full legal name} _____ is restored.

C. The court reserves jurisdiction to modify and enforce this final judgment.

DONE AND ORDERED in _____, Florida, on _____.

CIRCUIT JUDGE

I certify that a copy of this Final Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage was _____ mailed _____ faxed and
mailed _____ e-mailed _____ hand-delivered to the parties listed below on *{date}*_____.

by _____
{Clerk of court or designee}

Petitioner (or his or her attorney)
Respondent (or his or her attorney)
Other: _____

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA SUPREME COURT APPROVED FAMILY LAW
FORM 12.901(b)(3)
PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE WITH
NO DEPENDENT OR MINOR CHILD(REN) OR PROPERTY
(02/18)**

When should this form be used?

This form may be used when you are filing for a **dissolution of marriage**, and you and your spouse have no **marital assets** or **marital liabilities**, no minor or dependent children, neither spouse is seeking spousal support (alimony), and neither spouse is pregnant. You or your spouse must have lived in Florida for at least 6 months before filing for a dissolution in Florida. If you and your spouse agree on all issues and both can attend the hearing, you may want to file a **Petition for Simplified Dissolution of Marriage**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.901(a); however, you cannot file a Petition for a Simplified Dissolution of Marriage if any of the following are true:

- Either you or your spouse is seeking spousal support (**alimony**).
- You would like to ask questions and get documents concerning your spouse's income, expenses, assets, debts, or other matters before having a trial or settlement.
- You would like to reserve your rights to have any matters reconsidered or appeal the judge's decision.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. After completing this form, you should sign the form before a **notary public** or **deputy clerk**. You should **file** the original with the **clerk of the circuit court** in the county where you live and keep a copy for your records. Because you are filing the **petition** in this proceeding, you may also be referred to as the **petitioner** and your spouse as the **respondent**.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-FILING

The Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file petitions or other pleadings or documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your pleadings or other documents electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the judicial circuit in which you file. **The rules and procedures should be carefully read and followed.**

What should I do next?

For your case to proceed, you must properly notify your spouse of the **petition**. If you know where he or she lives, you should use **personal service**. If you absolutely do not know where he or she lives, you may use **constructive service**. You may also be able to use constructive service if your spouse resides in

another state or country. However, if constructive service is used, other than granting a divorce, the court may only grant limited relief, which cannot include spousal support (alimony). For more information on constructive service, see **Notice of Action for Dissolution of Marriage (No Child or Financial Support)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.913(a)(1), and **Affidavit of Diligent Search and Inquiry**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.913(b). If your spouse is in the military service of the United States, additional steps for service may be required. See, for example, **Memorandum for Certificate of Military Service**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.912(a) and **Affidavit of Military Service**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.912(b). In sum, the law regarding constructive service and service on an individual in the military service is very complex and you may wish to consult an attorney regarding these issues.

If personal service is used, your spouse has 20 days to answer after being served with your petition. Your case will then generally proceed in one of the following three ways:

DEFAULT. If after 20 days, your spouse has not filed an answer, you may file a **Motion for Default**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.922(a), with the clerk of court. Then, if you have filed all of the required papers, you may contact the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant to set a **final hearing**. You must notify your spouse of the hearing by using a **Notice of Hearing (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.923, or other appropriate notice of hearing form.

UNCONTESTED. If your spouse files an answer that agrees with everything in your petition or an answer and waiver, **and** you have complied with mandatory disclosure and filed all of the required papers, you may contact the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant to set a final hearing. You must notify your spouse of the hearing by using a **Notice of Hearing (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.923, or other appropriate notice of hearing form.

CONTESTED. If your spouse files an answer or an answer and counterpetition, which disagrees with or denies anything in your petition, **and** you are unable to settle the disputed issues, you should file a **Notice for Trial**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.924, after you have complied with mandatory disclosure and filed all of the required papers. Some circuits may require the completion of mediation before a final hearing may be set. You should contact the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant for instructions on how to set your case for trial (final hearing). If your spouse files an answer and counterpetition, you should answer the counterpetition within 20 days using an **Answer to Counterpetition**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.903(d).

Where can I look for more information?

Before proceeding, you should read “General Information for Self-Represented Litigants” found at the beginning of these forms. The words that are in “bold underline” in these instructions are defined there. For further information, see chapter 61, Florida Statutes.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-SERVICE ELECTION

After the initial service of process of the petition or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in certain

circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Rules of Judicial Administration.** If you elect to participate in electronic service, which means serving or receiving pleadings by electronic mail (e-mail), or through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, you **must** review Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at www.flcourts.org through the link to the Rules of Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MAY SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO. If a self-represented litigant elects to serve and receive documents by e-mail, the procedures must always be followed once the initial election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915; and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516.

Special notes...

If you do not have the money to pay the filing fee, you may obtain an Application for Determination of Civil Indigent Status from the clerk, fill it out, and the clerk will determine whether you are eligible to have filing fees deferred.

If you want to keep your address confidential because you are the victim of sexual battery, aggravated child abuse, aggravated stalking, harassment, aggravated battery, or domestic violence, do not enter the address, telephone, and fax information at the bottom of this form. Instead, file a **Request for Confidential Filing of Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.980(h).

With this form, you must also file the following:

- **Affidavit of Corroborating Witness**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(i) **OR** photocopy of current Florida driver's license, Florida identification card, or voter's registration card (issue date of copied document must be at least six months before date case is actually filed with the clerk of the circuit court).
- **Notice of Social Security Number**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(j).
- **Family Law Financial Affidavit**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(b) or (c). (This must be filed within 45 days of service of the petition on the respondent, if not filed at the time of the petition.)
- **Certificate of Compliance with Mandatory Disclosure**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.932. (This must be filed within 45 days of service of the petition on the respondent, if not filed at the time of the petition, unless you and your spouse have agreed not to exchange these documents.)

Final Judgment Form. These family law forms contain a **Final Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage with No Property or Minor Child(ren) (Uncontested)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.990(b)(3). You should check with the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant to see if you need to bring a final judgment with you to the hearing. If so, you should type or print the heading, including the circuit, county, case number, division, and the parties' names, and leave the rest blank for the judge to complete at your hearing or trial.

Nonlawyer. Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of a **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900(a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

In re: The Marriage of:

Case No: _____

Division: _____

Petitioner,

and

Respondent.

PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE WITH NO DEPENDENT OR MINOR CHILD(REN) OR PROPERTY

I, {full legal name} _____, the
Petitioner, certify that the following statements are true:

1. JURISDICTION/RESIDENCE

_____ Petitioner _____ Respondent _____ Both has (have) lived in Florida for at least 6 months
before the filing of this Petition for Dissolution of Marriage.

2. Petitioner _____ is or _____ is not a member of the military service.
Respondent _____ is or _____ is not a member of the military service.

3. MARRIAGE HISTORY

Date of marriage: {month, day, year} _____
Place of marriage: {county, state, country} _____

4. THERE ARE NO MINOR (under 18) OR DEPENDENT CHILD(REN) COMMON TO BOTH PARTIES AND
NEITHER SPOUSE IS PREGNANT.

5. A completed Notice of Social Security Number, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form
12.902(j), is filed with this petition.

6. THIS PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE SHOULD BE GRANTED BECAUSE:

- a. _____ The marriage is irretrievably broken.

OR

- b. _____ One of the parties has been adjudged mentally incapacitated for a period of 3 years before the filing of this petition. A copy of the Judgment of Incapacity is attached.

7. THERE ARE NO MARITAL ASSETS OR LIABILITIES.

8. **PETITIONER FOREVER GIVES UP ANY RIGHTS TO SPOUSAL SUPPORT (ALIMONY) FROM THE OTHER SPOUSE.**

9. _____ Petitioner requests to be known by the following former legal name, which was *{former legal name}* _____.

10. Other relief *{specify}*: _____

_____.

REQUEST

{This section summarizes what you are asking the Court to include in the final judgment of dissolution of marriage.}

_____ Petitioner requests that the Court enter an order dissolving the marriage **and**:

[Indicate all that apply]

1. _____ restoring Petitioner's former name as specified in paragraph 9 of this petition;
2. _____ awarding other relief as specified in paragraph 10 of this petition; and any other terms the Court deems necessary.

I understand that I am swearing or affirming under oath to the truthfulness of the claims made in this petition and that the punishment for knowingly making a false statement includes fines and/or imprisonment.

Dated: _____

Signature of Petitioner

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Designated E-mail Address(es): _____

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to or affirmed and signed before me on _____ by _____.

NOTARY PUBLIC or DEPUTY CLERK

{Print, type, or stamp commissioned name of notary or deputy clerk.}

_____ Personally known

_____ Produced identification

_____ Type of identification produced _____

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:

[fill in **all** blanks] This form was prepared for the Petitioner

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual} _____,

{name of business} _____,

{address} _____,

{city} _____, *{state}* _____, *{zip code}* _____, *{telephone number}* _____.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA FAMILY LAW RULES OF PROCEDURE
FORM 12.902(b)
FAMILY LAW FINANCIAL AFFIDAVIT (SHORT FORM)
(10/21)**

When should this form be used?

This form should be used when you are involved in a family law case which requires a **financial affidavit** and your individual gross income is **UNDER \$50,000 per year** unless:

- (1) You are filing a simplified dissolution of marriage under rule 12.105 and both parties have waived the filing of a financial affidavit;
- (2) You have no minor children, no support issues, and have filed a written settlement agreement disposing of all financial issues; or
- (3) The court lacks jurisdiction to determine any financial issues.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. You should **file** this document with the **clerk of the circuit court** in the county where the **petition** was filed and keep a copy for your records.

What should I do next?

A copy of this form must be filed with the court and served on the other party or his or her attorney in your case within 45 days of being served with the petition, if it is not served on him or her with your initial papers. The copy you are serving to the other party must be either mailed, e-mailed, or hand-delivered to the opposing party or his or her attorney on the same day indicated on the certificate of service. If it is mailed, it must be postmarked on the date indicated in the certificate of service. **Service** must be in accordance with Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-FILING

The Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration now require that all petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file petitions or other pleadings or documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your pleadings or other documents electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the judicial circuit in which you file. The rules and procedures should be carefully read and followed.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-SERVICE ELECTION

After the initial service of process of the petition or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in certain circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration.** If you elect to participate in

electronic service, which means serving or receiving pleadings by electronic mail (e-mail), or through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, you must review Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at www.flcourts.org through the link to the Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MAY SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO. If a self-represented litigant elects to serve and receive documents by email, the procedures must always be followed once the initial election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General), Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915;** and Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516.

Where can I look for more information?

Before proceeding, you should read “General Information for Self-Represented Litigants” found at the beginning of these forms. The words that are in “**bold underline**” in these instructions are defined there. For further information, see Florida Family Law Rule of Procedure 12.285.

Special notes . . .

If you want to keep your address confidential because you have been found by a judge to be the victim of sexual battery, aggravated child abuse, aggravated stalking, harassment, aggravated battery, or domestic violence, do not enter the address, telephone, and fax information at the bottom of this form. Instead, file **Request for Confidential Filing of Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.980(h).

The affidavit must be completed using **monthly** income and expense amounts. If you are paid or your bills are due on a schedule which is not monthly, you must convert those amounts. Hints are provided below for making these conversions.

Hourly - If you are paid by the hour, you may convert your income to monthly as follows:

Hourly amount	x	Hours worked per week	=	Weekly amount
Weekly amount	x	52 Weeks per year	=	Yearly amount
Yearly amount	÷	12 Months per year	=	Monthly Amount

Daily - If you are paid by the day, you may convert your income to monthly as follows:

Daily amount	x	Days worked per week	=	Weekly amount
Weekly amount	x	52 Weeks per year	=	Yearly amount
Yearly amount	÷	12 Months per year	=	Monthly Amount

Weekly - If you are paid by the week, you may convert your income to monthly as follows:

Weekly amount	x	52 Weeks per year	=	Yearly amount
---------------	---	-------------------	---	---------------

Yearly amount ÷ 12 Months per year = **Monthly Amount**

Bi-weekly - If you are paid every two weeks, you may convert your income to monthly as follows:

Bi-weekly amount x 26 = Yearly amount

Yearly amount ÷ 12 Months per year = **Monthly Amount**

Semi-monthly - If you are paid twice per month, you may convert your income to monthly as follows:

Semi-monthly amount x 2 = **Monthly Amount**

Expenses may be converted in the same manner.

Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of a **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900(a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____

Division: _____

_____,
Petitioner,

and

_____,
Respondent.

FAMILY LAW FINANCIAL AFFIDAVIT (SHORT FORM)

(Under \$50,000 Individual Gross Annual Income)

I, {full legal name} _____, being sworn, certify that the following information is true:

My Occupation: _____ Employed by: _____

Business Address: _____

Pay rate: \$ _____ () every week () every other week () twice a month () monthly
() other: _____

___ Check here if unemployed and explain on a separate sheet your efforts to find employment.

SECTION I. PRESENT MONTHLY GROSS INCOME:

All amounts must be MONTHLY. See the instructions with this form to figure out money amounts for anything that is NOT paid monthly. Attach more paper, if needed. Items included under "other" should be listed separately with separate dollar amounts.

1. \$ _____ Monthly gross salary or wages
2. _____ Monthly bonuses, commissions, allowances, overtime, tips, and similar payments
3. _____ Monthly business income from sources such as self-employment, partnerships, close corporations, and/or independent contracts (gross receipts minus ordinary and necessary expenses required to produce income) (Attach sheet itemizing such income and expenses.)
4. _____ Monthly disability benefits/SSI
5. _____ Monthly Workers' Compensation
6. _____ Monthly Unemployment Compensation
7. _____ Monthly pension, retirement, or annuity payments
8. _____ Monthly Social Security benefits
9. _____ Monthly alimony actually received (Add 9a and 9b)
 - 9a. From this case: \$ _____
 - 9b. From other case(s): \$ _____

10. _____ Monthly interest and dividends
11. _____ Monthly rental income (gross receipts minus ordinary and necessary expenses required to produce income) (Attach sheet itemizing such income and expense items.)
12. _____ Monthly income from royalties, trusts, or estates
13. _____ Monthly reimbursed expenses and in-kind payments to the extent that they reduce personal living expenses
14. _____ Monthly gains derived from dealing in property (not including nonrecurring gains)
15. _____ Any other income of a recurring nature (list source) _____
16. _____
17. \$ _____ **TOTAL PRESENT MONTHLY GROSS INCOME** (Add lines 1–16)

PRESENT MONTHLY DEDUCTIONS:

18. \$ _____ Monthly federal, state, and local income tax (corrected for filing status and allowable dependents and income tax liabilities)
- a. Filing Status _____
- b. Number of dependents claimed _____
19. _____ Monthly FICA or self-employment taxes
20. _____ Monthly Medicare payments
21. _____ Monthly mandatory union dues
22. _____ Monthly mandatory retirement payments
23. _____ Monthly health insurance payments (including dental insurance), excluding portion paid for any minor children of this relationship
24. _____ Monthly court-ordered child support actually paid for children from another relationship
25. _____ Monthly court-ordered alimony actually paid (Add 25a and 25b)
- 25a. from this case: \$ _____
- 25b. from other case(s): \$ _____
26. \$ _____ **TOTAL DEDUCTIONS ALLOWABLE UNDER SECTION 61.30, FLORIDA STATUTES**
(Add lines 18 through 25)
27. \$ _____ **PRESENT NET MONTHLY INCOME** (Subtract line 26 from line 17)

SECTION II. AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENSES

Proposed/Estimated Expenses. If this is a dissolution of marriage case **and** your expenses as listed below do not reflect what you actually pay currently, you should write "estimate" next to each amount that is estimated.

A. HOUSEHOLD:

Mortgage or rent \$ _____
Property taxes \$ _____
Utilities \$ _____
Telephone \$ _____
Food \$ _____
Meals outside home \$ _____
Maintenance/Repairs \$ _____
Other: _____ \$ _____

B. AUTOMOBILE

Gasoline \$ _____
Repairs \$ _____
Insurance \$ _____

C. CHILD(REN)'S EXPENSES

Day care \$ _____
Lunch money \$ _____
Clothing \$ _____
Grooming \$ _____
Gifts for holidays \$ _____
Medical/Dental (uninsured) \$ _____
Other: _____ \$ _____

D. INSURANCE

Medical/Dental (if not listed on lines 23 or 45) \$ _____
Child(ren)'s medical/dental \$ _____
Life \$ _____
Other: _____ \$ _____

E. OTHER EXPENSES NOT LISTED ABOVE

Clothing \$ _____
Medical/Dental (uninsured) \$ _____
Grooming \$ _____
Entertainment \$ _____
Gifts \$ _____
Religious organizations \$ _____
Miscellaneous \$ _____
Other: _____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____

F. PAYMENTS TO CREDITORS

CREDITOR:	MONTHLY PAYMENT
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

28. \$ _____ **TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES** (add **ALL** monthly amounts in A through F above)

SUMMARY

29. \$ _____ **TOTAL PRESENT MONTHLY NET INCOME** (from line 27 of SECTION I. INCOME)

30. \$ _____ **TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES** (from line 28 above)

31. \$ _____ **SURPLUS** (If line 29 is more than line 30, subtract line 30 from line 29. This is the amount of your surplus. Enter that amount here.)

32. (\$ _____) **(DEFICIT)** (If line 30 is more than line 29, subtract line 29 from line 30. This is the amount of your deficit. Enter that amount here.)

SECTION III. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Use the nonmarital column only if this is a petition for dissolution of marriage and you believe an item is “nonmarital,” meaning it belongs to only one of you and should not be divided. You should indicate to whom you believe the item(s) or debt belongs. (Typically, you will only use this column if property/debt was owned/owed by one spouse before the marriage. See the “General Information for Self-Represented Litigants” found at the beginning of these forms and section 61.075(1), Florida Statutes, for definitions of “marital” and “nonmarital” assets and liabilities.)

A. ASSETS:

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM(S). List a description of each separate item owned by you (and/or your spouse, if this is a petition for dissolution of marriage). LIST ONLY LAST 4 DIGITS OF ACCOUNT NUMBERS. Check the line next to any asset(s) which you are requesting the judge award to you.		Current Fair Market Value	Nonmarital (check correct column)	
			Petitioner	Respondent
	Cash (on hand)	\$		
	Cash (in banks or credit unions)			
	Stocks, Bonds, Notes			
	Real estate: (Home)			
	(Other)			
	Automobiles			
	Other personal property			
	Retirement plans (Profit Sharing, Pension, IRA, 401(k)s, etc.)			
	Other			
	_____ Check here if additional pages are attached.			
Total Assets (add next column)		\$		

B. LIABILITIES:

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM(S). List a description of each separate debt owed by you (and/or your spouse, if this is a petition for dissolution of marriage). LIST ONLY LAST 4 DIGITS OF ACCOUNT NUMBERS. Check the line next to any debt(s) for which you believe you should be responsible.		Current Amount Owed	Nonmarital (check correct column)	
			Petitioner	Respondent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mortgages on real estate: First mortgage on home	\$		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Second mortgage on home			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other mortgages			
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Auto loans			
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charge/credit card accounts			
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other			
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check here if additional pages are attached.			
Total Debts (add next column)		\$		

C. CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES:

INSTRUCTIONS: If you have any **POSSIBLE assets** (income potential, accrued vacation or sick leave, bonus, inheritance, etc.) or **POSSIBLE liabilities** (possible lawsuits, future unpaid taxes, contingent tax liabilities, debts assumed by another), you must list them here.

Contingent Assets		Possible Value	Nonmarital (check correct column)	
Check the line next to any contingent asset(s) which you are requesting the judge award to you.			Petitioner	Respondent
<input type="checkbox"/>		\$		
<input type="checkbox"/>				
Total Contingent Assets		\$		

Contingent Liabilities		Possible Amount Owed	Nonmarital (check correct column)	
Check the line next to any contingent debt(s) for which you believe you should be responsible.			Petitioner	Respondent
<input type="checkbox"/>		\$		
<input type="checkbox"/>				
Total Contingent Liabilities		\$		

SECTION IV. CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES WORKSHEET

(Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(e), Child Support Guidelines Worksheet, MUST be filed with the court at or prior to a hearing to establish or modify child support. This requirement cannot be waived by the parties.)

[Check **one** only]

_____ **A Child Support Guidelines Worksheet IS or WILL BE filed in this case.** This case involves the establishment or modification of child support.

_____ **A Child Support Guidelines Worksheet IS NOT being filed in this case.** The establishment or modification of child support is not an issue in this case.

I certify that a copy of this document was [check all used]: () e-mailed () mailed () faxed () hand delivered to the person(s) listed below on {date} _____.

Other party or his/her attorney:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-mail Address(es): _____

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read this document and the facts stated in it are true.

Dated: _____

Signature of Party

Printed Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

E-mail Address(es):

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:

[fill in **all** blanks] This form was prepared for the: {choose only **one**} () Petitioner () Respondent

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual} _____

{name of business} _____

{address} _____

{city} _____, {state} _____, {zip code} _____, {telephone number} _____.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA FAMILY LAW RULES OF PROCEDURE
FORM 12.902(c)
FAMILY LAW FINANCIAL AFFIDAVIT (LONG FORM)
(10/21)**

When should this form be used?

This form should be used when you are involved in a family law case which requires a **financial affidavit** and your individual gross income is **\$50,000 OR MORE per year** unless:

- (1) You are filing a simplified dissolution of marriage under rule 12.105 and both parties have waived the filing of financial affidavits;
- (2) you have no minor children, no support issues, and have filed a written settlement agreement disposing of all financial issues; or
- (3) the court lacks jurisdiction to determine any financial issues.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. After completing this form, you should sign the form. You should then **file** this document with the **clerk of the circuit court** in the county where the **petition** was filed and keep a copy for your records.

What should I do next?

A copy of this form must be served on the other **party** in your case within 45 days of being served with the petition, if it is not served on him or her with your initial papers. **Service** must be in accordance with Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516.

A copy of this form must be filed with the court and served on the other party or his or her attorney. The copy you are serving to the other party must be either mailed, e-mailed, or hand-delivered to the opposing party or his or her attorney on the same day indicated on the certificate of service. If it is mailed, it must be postmarked on the date indicated in the certificate of service.

Where can I look for more information?

Before proceeding, you should read “General Information for Self-Represented Litigants” found at the beginning of these forms. The words that are in **“bold underline”** in these instructions are defined there. For further information, see Florida Family Law Rule of Procedure 12.285.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-FILING

The Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration now require that all petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file petitions or other pleadings or documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your pleadings or other documents electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the judicial circuit in which you file. The rules and procedures should be carefully read and followed.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-SERVICE ELECTION

After the initial service of process of the petition or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in certain circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration.** If you elect to participate in electronic service, which means serving or receiving pleadings by electronic mail (e-mail), or through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, you must review Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at www.flcourts.org through the link to the Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MAY SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO. If a self-represented litigant elects to serve and receive documents by email, the procedures must always be followed once the initial election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General), Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915;** and Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516.

Special notes . . .

If you want to keep your address confidential because you have been found by a judge to be the victim of sexual battery, aggravated child abuse, aggravated stalking, harassment, aggravated battery, or domestic violence do not enter the address, telephone, and fax information at the bottom of this form. Instead, file **Request for Confidential Filing of Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.980(h).

The affidavit must be completed using **monthly** income and expense amounts. If you are paid or your bills are due on a schedule which is not monthly, you must convert those amounts. Hints are provided below for making these conversions.

Hourly - If you are paid by the hour, you may convert your income to monthly as follows:

Hourly amount	x	Hours worked per week	=	Weekly amount
Weekly amount	x	52 Weeks per year	=	Yearly amount
Yearly amount	÷	12 Months per year	=	Monthly Amount

Daily - If you are paid by the day, you may convert your income to monthly as follows:

Daily amount	x	Days worked per week	=	Weekly amount
Weekly amount	x	52 Weeks per year	=	Yearly amount
Yearly amount	÷	12 Months per year	=	Monthly Amount

Weekly - If you are paid by the week, you may convert your income to monthly as follows:

Weekly amount	x	52 Weeks per year	=	Yearly amount
Yearly amount	÷	12 Months per year	=	Monthly Amount

Bi-weekly - If you are paid every two weeks, you may convert your income to monthly as follows:

Bi-weekly amount	x	26	=	Yearly amount
Yearly amount	÷	12 Months per year	=	Monthly Amount

Semi-monthly - If you are paid twice per month, you may convert your income to monthly as follows:

Semi-monthly amount	x	2	=	Monthly Amount
---------------------	---	---	---	-----------------------

Expenses may be converted in the same manner.

Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of a **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900(a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____

Division: _____

_____,
Petitioner,

and

_____,
Respondent.

FAMILY LAW FINANCIAL AFFIDAVIT (LONG FORM)

(\$50,000 or more Individual Gross Annual Income)

I, {full legal name} _____, being sworn, certify
that the following information is true:

SECTION I. INCOME

1. My age is: _____

2. My occupation is: _____

3. I am currently

*[Check **all** that apply]*

a. ☐ Unemployed

Describe your efforts to find employment, how soon you expect to be employed, and the pay
you expect to receive: _____

b. ☐ Employed by: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip code: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Pay rate: \$ _____ () every week () every other week () twice a month

() monthly () other: _____

If you are expecting to become unemployed or change jobs soon, describe the change you
expect and why and how it will affect your income: _____

_____.

_____ Check here if you currently have more than one job. List the information above for the
second job(s) on a separate sheet and attach it to this affidavit.

c. _____ Retired. Date of retirement: _____
Employer from whom retired: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip code: _____ Telephone Number: _____

LAST YEAR'S GROSS INCOME:

YEAR _____

Your Income

\$ _____

Other Party's Income (*if known*)

\$ _____

PRESENT MONTHLY GROSS INCOME:

All amounts must be MONTHLY. See the instructions with this form to figure out money amounts for anything that is NOT paid monthly. Attach more paper, if needed. Items included under "other" should be listed separately with separate dollar amounts.

1. \$ _____ Monthly gross salary or wages
2. _____ Monthly bonuses, commissions, allowances, overtime, tips, and similar payments
3. _____ Monthly business income from sources such as self-employment, partnerships, close corporations, and/or independent contracts (Gross receipts minus ordinary and necessary expenses required to produce income.)(Attach sheet itemizing such income and expenses.)
4. _____ Monthly disability benefits/SSI
5. _____ Monthly Workers' Compensation
6. _____ Monthly Unemployment Compensation
7. _____ Monthly pension, retirement, or annuity payments
8. _____ Monthly Social Security benefits
9. _____ Monthly alimony actually received (Add 9a and 9b)
9a. From this case: \$ _____
9b. From other case(s): \$ _____
10. _____ Monthly interest and dividends
11. _____ Monthly rental income (gross receipts minus ordinary and necessary expenses required to produce income) (Attach sheet itemizing such income and expense items.)
12. _____ Monthly income from royalties, trusts, or estates
13. _____ Monthly reimbursed expenses and in-kind payments to the extent that they reduce personal living expenses (Attach sheet itemizing each item and amount.)
14. _____ Monthly gains derived from dealing in property (not including nonrecurring gains)
_____ Any other income of a recurring nature (identify source):
15. _____
16. _____
17. \$ _____ **TOTAL PRESENT MONTHLY GROSS INCOME** (Add lines 1 through 16.)

PRESENT MONTHLY DEDUCTIONS:

All amounts must be MONTHLY. See the instructions with this form to figure out money amounts for anything that is NOT paid monthly.

18. \$ _____ Monthly federal, state, and local income tax (corrected for filing status and allowable dependents and income tax liabilities)
a. Filing Status _____
b. Number of dependents claimed _____
19. _____ Monthly FICA or self-employment taxes

20. _____ Monthly Medicare payments
21. _____ Monthly mandatory union dues
22. _____ Monthly mandatory retirement payments
23. _____ Monthly health insurance payments (including dental insurance), excluding portion paid for any minor children of this relationship
24. _____ Monthly court-ordered child support actually paid for children from another relationship
25. _____ Monthly court-ordered alimony actually paid (Add 25a and 25b)
25a. from this case: \$ _____
25b. from other case(s): \$ _____
26. \$ _____ **TOTAL DEDUCTIONS ALLOWABLE UNDER SECTION 61.30, FLORIDA STATUTES**
(Add lines 18 through 25.)
27. \$ _____ **PRESENT NET MONTHLY INCOME**
(Subtract line 26 from line 17.)

SECTION II. AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENSES

Proposed/Estimated Expenses. If this is a dissolution of marriage case **and** your expenses as listed below do not reflect what you actually pay currently, you should write "estimate" next to each amount that is estimated.

HOUSEHOLD:

1. \$ _____ Monthly mortgage or rent payments
2. _____ Monthly property taxes (if not included in mortgage)
3. _____ Monthly insurance on residence (if not included in mortgage)
4. _____ Monthly condominium maintenance fees and homeowner's association fees
5. _____ Monthly electricity
6. _____ Monthly water, garbage, and sewer
7. _____ Monthly telephone
8. _____ Monthly fuel oil or natural gas
9. _____ Monthly repairs and maintenance
10. _____ Monthly lawn care
11. _____ Monthly pool maintenance
12. _____ Monthly pest control
13. _____ Monthly misc. household
14. _____ Monthly food and home supplies
15. _____ Monthly meals outside home
16. _____ Monthly cable t.v.
17. _____ Monthly alarm service contract
18. _____ Monthly service contracts on appliances
19. _____ Monthly maid service

Other:

20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____

25. \$ _____ **SUBTOTAL** (Add lines 1 through 24.)

AUTOMOBILE:

- 26. \$ _____ Monthly gasoline and oil
- 27. _____ Monthly repairs
- 28. _____ Monthly auto tags and emission testing
- 29. _____ Monthly insurance
- 30. _____ Monthly payments (lease or financing)
- 31. _____ Monthly rental/replacements
- 32. _____ Monthly alternative transportation (bus, rail, car pool, etc.)
- 33. _____ Monthly tolls and parking
- 34. _____ Other: _____
- 35. \$ _____ **SUBTOTAL** (Add lines 26 through 34.)

MONTHLY EXPENSES FOR CHILDREN COMMON TO BOTH PARTIES:

- 36. \$ _____ Monthly nursery, babysitting, or day care
- 37. _____ Monthly school tuition
- 38. _____ Monthly school supplies, books, and fees
- 39. _____ Monthly after school activities
- 40. _____ Monthly lunch money
- 41. _____ Monthly private lessons or tutoring
- 42. _____ Monthly allowances
- 43. _____ Monthly clothing and uniforms
- 44. _____ Monthly entertainment (movies, parties, etc.)
- 45. _____ Monthly health insurance
- 46. _____ Monthly medical, dental, prescriptions (nonreimbursed only)
- 47. _____ Monthly psychiatric/psychological/counselor
- 48. _____ Monthly orthodontic
- 49. _____ Monthly vitamins
- 50. _____ Monthly beauty parlor/barber shop
- 51. _____ Monthly nonprescription medication
- 52. _____ Monthly cosmetics, toiletries, and sundries
- 53. _____ Monthly gifts from child(ren) to others (other children, relatives, teachers, etc.)
- 54. _____ Monthly camp or summer activities
- 55. _____ Monthly clubs (Boy/Girl Scouts, etc.)
- 56. _____ Monthly time-sharing expenses
- 57. _____ Monthly miscellaneous
- 58. \$ _____ **SUBTOTAL** (Add lines 36 through 57.)

MONTHLY EXPENSES FOR CHILD(REN) FROM ANOTHER RELATIONSHIP

(other than court-ordered child support)

- 59. \$ _____
- 60. _____
- 61. _____
- 62. _____
- 63. \$ _____ **SUBTOTAL** (Add lines 59 through 62.)

MONTHLY INSURANCE:

64. \$ _____ Health insurance (if not listed on lines 23 or 45)

65. _____ Life insurance

66. _____ Dental insurance.

Other:

67. _____

68. _____

69. \$ _____ **SUBTOTAL** (Add lines 66 through 68, exclude lines 64 and 65.)**OTHER MONTHLY EXPENSES NOT LISTED ABOVE:**

70. \$ _____ Monthly dry cleaning and laundry

71. _____ Monthly clothing

72. _____ Monthly medical, dental, and prescription (unreimbursed only)

73. _____ Monthly psychiatric, psychological, or counselor (unreimbursed only)

74. _____ Monthly non-prescription medications, cosmetics, toiletries, and sundries

75. _____ Monthly grooming

76. _____ Monthly gifts

77. _____ Monthly pet expenses

78. _____ Monthly club dues and membership

79. _____ Monthly sports and hobbies

80. _____ Monthly entertainment

81. _____ Monthly periodicals/books/tapes/CDs

82. _____ Monthly vacations

83. _____ Monthly religious organizations

84. _____ Monthly bank charges/credit card fees

85. _____ Monthly education expenses

86. _____ Other: (include any usual and customary expenses not otherwise mentioned in the items listed above) _____

87. _____

88. _____

89. _____

90. \$ _____ **SUBTOTAL** (Add lines 70 through 89.)**MONTHLY PAYMENTS TO CREDITORS:** (only when payments are currently made by you on outstanding balances). List only last 4 digits of account numbers.

MONTHLY PAYMENT AND NAME OF CREDITOR(s):

91. \$ _____

92. _____

93. _____

94. _____

95. _____

96. _____

97. _____

98. _____

99. _____

100. _____

101. _____

102. _____
103. _____
104. \$ _____ **SUBTOTAL** (Add lines 91 through 103.)
105. \$ _____ **TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES:**
(Add lines 25, 35, 58, 63, 69, 90, and 104 of Section II, Expenses.)

SUMMARY

106. \$ _____ **TOTAL PRESENT MONTHLY NET INCOME** (from line 27 of SECTION I. INCOME)

107. \$ _____ **TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES** (from line 105 above)

108. \$ _____ **SURPLUS** (If line 106 is more than line 107, subtract line 107 from line 106. This is the amount of your surplus. Enter that amount here.)

109. (\$ _____) **(DEFICIT)** (If line 107 is more than line 106, subtract line 106 from line 107. This is the amount of your deficit. Enter that amount here.)

SECTION III. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
--

A. ASSETS (This is where you list what you OWN.)

INSTRUCTIONS:

STEP 1: In column A, list a description of each separate item owned by you (and/or your spouse, if this is a petition for dissolution of marriage). Blank spaces are provided if you need to list more than one of an item.

STEP 2: If this is a petition for dissolution of marriage, check the line in Column A next to any item that you are requesting the judge award to you.

STEP 3: In column B, write what you believe to be the current fair market value of all items listed.

STEP 4: Use column C only if this is a petition for dissolution of marriage and you believe an item is "nonmarital," meaning it belongs to only one of you and should not be divided. You should indicate to whom you believe the item belongs. (Typically, you will only use Column C if property was owned by one spouse before the marriage. See the "General Information for Self-Represented Litigants" found at the beginning of these forms and section 61.075(1), Florida Statutes, for definitions of "marital" and "nonmarital" assets and liabilities.)

A ASSETS: DESCRIPTION OF ITEM(S) LIST ONLY LAST FOUR DIGITS OF ACCOUNT NUMBERS. Check the line next to any asset(s) which you are requesting the judge award to you.		B Current Fair Market Value	C Nonmarital (Check correct column)	
			Petitioner	Respondent
	Cash (on hand)	\$		
	Cash (in banks or credit unions)			
	Stocks/Bonds			
	Notes (money owed to you in writing)			
	Money owed to you (not evidenced by a note)			
	Real estate: (Home)			
	(Other)			
	Business interests			
	Automobiles			
	Boats			

B. LIABILITIES/DEBTS (This is where you list what you OWE.)

INSTRUCTIONS:

STEP 1: In column A, list a description of each separate debt owed by you (and/or your spouse, if this is a petition for dissolution of marriage). Blank spaces are provided if you need to list more than one of an item.

STEP 2: If this is a petition for dissolution of marriage, check the line in Column A next to any debt(s) for which you believe you should be responsible.

STEP 3: In column B, write what you believe to be the current amount owed for all items listed.

STEP 4: Use column C only if this is a petition for dissolution of marriage and you believe an item is “nonmarital,” meaning the debt belongs to only one of you and should not be divided. You should indicate to whom you believe the debt belongs. (Typically, you will only use Column C if the debt was owed by one spouse before the marriage. See the “General Information for Self-Represented Litigants” found at the beginning of these forms and section 61.075(1), Florida Statutes, for definitions of “marital” and “nonmarital” assets and liabilities.)

A LIABILITIES: DESCRIPTION OF ITEM(S) LIST ONLY LAST FOUR DIGITS OF ACCOUNT NUMBERS. Check the line next to any debt(s) for which you believe you should be responsible.		B Current Amount Owed	C Nonmarital (Check correct column)	
			Petitioner	Respondent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mortgages on real estate: First mortgage on home	\$		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Second mortgage on home			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other mortgages			
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charge/credit card accounts			
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Auto loan			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Auto loan			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bank/Credit Union loans			
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Money you owe (not evidenced by a note)			
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Judgments			
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:			
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				
Total Debts (add column B)		\$		

C. NET WORTH (excluding contingent assets and liabilities)

\$ _____ **Total Assets** (enter total of Column B in Asset Table; Section A)

\$ _____ **Total Liabilities** (enter total of Column B in Liabilities Table; Section B)

\$ _____ **TOTAL NET WORTH (Total Assets minus Total Liabilities)**
(excluding contingent assets and liabilities)

D. CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

INSTRUCTIONS:

If you have any **POSSIBLE assets** (income potential, accrued vacation or sick leave, bonus, inheritance, etc.) or **POSSIBLE liabilities** (possible lawsuits, future unpaid taxes, contingent tax liabilities, debts assumed by another), you must list them here.

A Contingent Assets		B Possible Value	C Nonmarital (Check correct column)	
Check the line next to any contingent asset(s) which you are requesting the judge award to you.			Petitioner	Respondent
		\$		
Total Contingent Assets		\$		

A Contingent Liabilities		B Possible Amount Owed	C Nonmarital (Check correct column)	
Check the line next to any contingent debt(s) for which you believe you should be responsible.			Petitioner	Respondent
<input type="checkbox"/>		\$		
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				
Total Contingent Liabilities		\$		

E. CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES WORKSHEET. Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(e), Child Support Guidelines Worksheet, **MUST** be filed with the court at or prior to a hearing to establish or modify child support. This requirement cannot be waived by the parties.

[Check **one** only]

_____ **A Child Support Guidelines Worksheet IS or WILL BE filed in this case.** This case involves the establishment or modification of child support.

_____ **A Child Support Guidelines Worksheet IS NOT being filed in this case.** The establishment or modification of child support is not an issue in this case.

I certify that a copy of this financial affidavit was [check all used]: () e-mailed () mailed, () faxed () hand delivered to the person(s) listed below on {date} _____.

Other party or his/her attorney:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-mail Address(es): _____

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read this document and the facts stated in it are true.

Dated: _____

Signature of Party

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-mail Address(es): _____

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:

[fill in **all** blanks] This form was prepared for the: {choose only **one**} () Petitioner () Respondent

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual} _____

{name of business} _____

{address} _____

{city} _____, {state} _____, {telephone number} _____.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA SUPREME COURT APPROVED FAMILY LAW
FORM 12.902(j),
NOTICE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (11/15)**

When should this form be used?

This form must be completed and filed by each party in all paternity, child support, and dissolution of marriage cases, regardless of whether the case involves a minor child(ren) and/or property.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. After completing this form, you should file the original with the clerk of the circuit court in the county where your case was filed and keep a copy for your records.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-FILING

The Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file petitions or other pleadings or documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your pleadings or other documents electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the judicial circuit in which you file. **The rules and procedures should be carefully read and followed.**

What should I do next?

A copy of this form must be mailed, e-mailed, or hand delivered to the other party in your case, if it is not served on him or her with your initial papers.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-SERVICE ELECTION

After the initial service of process of the petition or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in certain circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Rules of Judicial Administration.** If you elect to participate in electronic service, which means serving or receiving pleadings by electronic mail (e-mail), or through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, you **must** review Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at www.flcourts.org through the link to the Rules of Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MAY SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO. If a self-represented litigant elects to serve and receive documents by e-mail, the

procedures must always be followed once the initial election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915; and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516.

Where can I look for more information?

Before proceeding, you should read General Information for Self-Represented Litigants found at the beginning of these forms. The words that are in “**bold underline**” in these instructions are defined there. For further information, see chapter 61, Florida Statutes.

Special notes...

If this is a domestic violence case and you want to keep your address confidential for safety reasons, do not enter the address, telephone, fax, or e-mail information at the bottom of this form. Instead, file a **Request for Confidential Filing of Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.980(i).

Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of a **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900(a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____
Division: _____

_____,
Petitioner,

and

_____,
Respondent.

NOTICE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

I, {full legal name} _____, certify that
my social security number is _____, as required by the applicable section of
the Florida Statutes. My date of birth is _____.

[Choose **one** only]

- _____ 1. This notice is being filed in a dissolution of marriage case in which the parties have **no** minor children in common.
- _____ 2. This notice is being filed in a paternity or child support case, or in a dissolution of marriage in which the parties have minor children in common. The minor child(ren)'s name(s), date(s) of birth, and social security number(s) is/are:

Name	Birth date	Social Security Number
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

{Attach additional pages if necessary.}

Disclosure of social security numbers shall be limited to the purpose of administration of the Title IV-D program for child support enforcement.

I understand that I am swearing or affirming under oath to the truthfulness of the claims made in this notice and that the punishment for knowingly making a false statement includes fines and/or imprisonment.

Dated: _____

Signature

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Designated E-mail Address(es): _____

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to or affirmed and signed before me on by _____.

Date: _____

NOTARY PUBLIC or DEPUTY CLERK

[Print, type, or stamp commissioned name of notary or clerk]

_____ Personally known

_____ Produced identification

_____ Type of identification produced _____

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:

[fill in **all** blanks] This form was prepared for the: {choose only **one**} () Petitioner () Respondent

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual} _____,

{name of business} _____,

{address} _____,

{city} _____, {state} _____, {zip code} _____, {telephone number} _____.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA FAMILY LAW RULES OF PROCEDURE FORM 12.900(h), NOTICE OF RELATED CASES (10/21)

When should this form be used?

Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.545(d) requires the **petitioner** in a family law case to file with the court a notice of related cases, if any. Your circuit may also require this form to be filed even if there are no related cases. A case is considered related if:

- it involves the same parties, children, or issues and is pending when the family law case is filed; or
- it affects the court's jurisdiction to proceed; or
- an order in the related case may conflict with an order on the same issues in the new case; or
- an order in the new case may conflict with an order in the earlier case.

This form is used to provide the required notice to the court.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. It must be **filed** with the **clerk of the circuit court** with the initial pleading in the family law case.

What should I do next?

A copy of the form must be served on the presiding judges, either the chief judge or the family law administrative judge, and all parties in the related cases. You should also keep a copy for your records. **Service** must be in accordance with Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516.

Where can I look for more information?

Before proceeding, you should read "General Information for Self-Represented Litigants" found at the beginning of these forms. The words that are in "**bold underline**" in these instructions are defined there. For further information, see Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.545(d).

Special notes . . .

Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of a **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900(a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms **must** also put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____
Division: _____

_____,
Petitioner,
and
_____,
Respondent.

NOTICE OF RELATED CASES

1. Petitioner submits this Notice of Related Cases as required by Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.545(d). A related case may be an open or closed civil, criminal, guardianship, domestic violence, juvenile delinquency, juvenile dependency, or domestic relations case. A case is "related" to this family law case if it involves any of the same parties, children, or issues and it is pending at the time the party files a family case; if it affects the court's jurisdiction to proceed; if an order in the related case may conflict with an order on the same issues in the new case; or if an order in the new case may conflict with an order in the earlier litigation.

[check **one** only]

_____ **There are no related cases.**

_____ **The following are the related cases (add additional pages if necessary):**

Related Case No. 1

Case Name(s): _____
Petitioner _____
Respondent _____
Case No.: _____ Division: _____

Type of Proceeding: [check **all** that apply]

_____ Dissolution of Marriage	_____ Paternity
_____ Custody	_____ Adoption
_____ Child Support	_____ Modification/Enforcement/Contempt Proceedings
_____ Juvenile Dependency	_____ Juvenile Delinquency
_____ Termination of Parental Rights	_____ Criminal
_____ Domestic/Sexual/Dating/Repeat	_____ Mental Health
_____ Violence or Stalking Injunctions	_____ Other {specify} _____

State where case was decided or is pending: _____ Florida _____ Other: {specify} _____

Name of Court where case was decided or is pending (for example, Fifth Circuit Court, Marion County, Florida): _____

Title of last Court Order/Judgment (if any): _____

Date of Court Order/Judgment (if any): _____

Relationship of cases check **all** that apply]:

____ pending case involves same parties, children, or issues;

____ may affect court's jurisdiction;

____ order in related case may conflict with an order in this case;

____ order in this case may conflict with previous order in related case.

Statement as to the relationship of the cases: _____

Related Case No. 2

Case Name(s): _____

Petitioner _____

Respondent _____

Case No.: _____ Division: _____

Type of Proceeding: [check **all** that apply]

____ Dissolution of Marriage

____ Paternity

____ Custody

____ Adoption

____ Child Support

____ Modification/Enforcement/Contempt Proceedings

____ Juvenile Dependency

____ Juvenile Delinquency

____ Termination of Parental Rights

____ Criminal

____ Domestic/Sexual/Dating/Repeat

____ Mental Health

____ Violence or Stalking Injunctions

____ Other {specify} _____

State where case was decided or is pending: ____ Florida ____ Other: {specify} _____

Name of Court where case was decided or is pending (*for example, Fifth Circuit Court, Marion County, Florida*): _____

Title of last Court Order/Judgment (if any): _____

Date of Court Order/Judgment (if any): _____

Relationship of cases check all that apply]:

____ pending case involves same parties, children, or issues.

____ may affect court's jurisdiction;

____ order in related case may conflict with an order in this case;

____ order in this case may conflict with previous order in related case.

Statement as to the relationship of the cases: _____

Related Case No. 3

Case Name(s): _____

Petitioner _____

Respondent _____

Case No.: _____ Division: _____

Type of Proceeding: [check **all** that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> Dissolution of Marriage	<input type="checkbox"/> Paternity
<input type="checkbox"/> Custody	<input type="checkbox"/> Adoption
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Modification/Enforcement/Contempt Proceedings
<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Dependency	<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Delinquency
<input type="checkbox"/> Termination of Parental Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal
<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic/Sexual/Dating/Repeat	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health
<input type="checkbox"/> Violence or Stalking Injunctions	<input type="checkbox"/> Other {specify} _____

State where case was decided or is pending: _____ Florida _____ Other: {specify} _____

Name of Court where case was decided or is pending (*for example, Fifth Circuit Court, Marion County, Florida*): _____

Title of last Court Order/Judgment (if any): _____

Date of Court Order/Judgment (if any): _____

Relationship of cases check all that apply]:

☐ pending case involves same parties, children, or issues;
☐ may affect court's jurisdiction;
☐ order in related case may conflict with an order in this case;
☐ order in this case may conflict with previous order in related case.

Statement as to the relationship of the cases: _____

2. [check **one** only]

☐ I **do not** request coordination of litigation in any of the cases listed above.

☐ I **do** request coordination of the following cases: _____

3. [check **all** that apply]

☐ Assignment to one judge

☐ Coordination of existing cases

will conserve judicial resources and promote an efficient determination of these cases because: _____.

4. The Petitioner acknowledges a continuing duty to inform the court of any cases in this or any other state that could affect the current proceeding.

Dated: _____

Petitioner's Signature

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-mail Address(es): _____

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I CERTIFY that I delivered a copy of this Notice of Related Cases to the _____ County Sheriff's Department or a certified process server for service on the Respondent, and **[check all used]** () e-mailed () mailed () hand delivered, a copy to {name} _____, who is the **[check all that apply]** () judge assigned to new case, () chief judge or family law administrative judge, () {name} _____ a party to the related case, () {name} _____, a party to the related case on {date} _____.

Signature of Petitioner/Attorney for Petitioner

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address(es): _____

Florida Bar Number: _____

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:

[fill in **all** blanks] This form was prepared for the {choose **only one**}: () Petitioner () Respondent.

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual} _____,

{name of business} _____,

{address} _____,

{city} _____ {state} _____, {telephone number} _____.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA FAMILY LAW RULES OF PROCEDURE
FORM 12.910(a)
SUMMONS: PERSONAL SERVICE ON AN INDIVIDUAL
(10/21)**

When should this form be used?

This form should be used to obtain **personal service** on the other **party** when you begin your lawsuit. **Service** is required for **all** documents filed in your case. Service means giving a copy of the required papers to the other party using the procedure that the law requires. Generally, there are two ways to make service: (1) personal service, or (2) service by email, mail, or hand delivery. A third method for service is called **constructive service**; however, the relief a court may grant may be limited in a case where constructive service has been used.

The law requires that certain documents be served by **personal service** if personal service is possible. **Personal service** means that a summons (this form) and a copy of the forms you are filing with the court that must be personally served are delivered by a deputy sheriff or private process server

- a. directly to the other party, **or**
- b. to someone over the age of fifteen with whom the other party lives.

Personal service is required for **all petitions**, including petitions for modification. You cannot serve these papers on the other party yourself or by mail or hand delivery. Personal service must be made by the sheriff's department in the county where the other party lives or works or by a private process server certified in the county where the other party lives or works.

In many counties, there are private process servers who, for a fee, will personally serve the summons and other documents that require personal service. You should look under **process servers** in the yellow pages of the telephone book for a list of private process servers in your area. You may use a private process server to serve any paper required to be personally served in a family law case **except** a petition for injunction for protection against domestic or repeat violence.

How do I start?

When you begin your lawsuit, you need to complete this form (summons) and a **Process Service Memorandum**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.910(b). The forms should be typed or printed legibly in black ink. Next, you will need to take these forms and, if you have not already done so, **file** your petition with the **clerk of the circuit court** in the county where you live. You should keep a copy of the forms for your records. The clerk will sign the summons, and then the summons, a copy of the papers to be served, and the process service memorandum must be delivered to the appropriate sheriff's office or to a private process server for service on the other party.

IF THE OTHER PARTY LIVES IN THE COUNTY WHERE SUIT IS FILED: Ask the clerk in your county about any local procedures regarding service. Generally, if the other party lives in the county in which you are filing suit and you want the sheriff's department to serve the papers, you will file the summons along with a **Process Service Memorandum**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.910(b), with the clerk and the clerk will forward those papers to the sheriff for service. Make sure that you attach a copy of the papers you want personally served to the summons. You may also need to provide the sheriff with a stamped envelope addressed to you. This will allow the sheriff to send the proof of service to you, after the sheriff serves your papers on the other party. However, in some counties the sheriff may send the proof of service directly to the clerk. If you are instructed to supply a self-addressed, stamped envelope and you receive the proof of service, you should file the proof of service with the clerk after you receive it from the sheriff. Also, you will need to find out how much the sheriff charges to serve the papers. Personal checks are not accepted. You should attach to the summons a cashier's check or money order made payable to the sheriff, and either give it to the clerk for delivery to the sheriff or send all of the paperwork and the fee to the sheriff yourself. The clerk will tell you which procedure to use. The costs for service may be waived if you are indigent.

If you want a private process server to serve the other party, you should still bring the summons to the clerk's office and have the clerk sign it for you. You should deliver the summons, along with the copy of your initial petition and any other papers to be served, and a **Process Service Memorandum**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.910(b), to the private process server. The private process server will charge you a fee for serving the papers. After service is complete, proof of service by the private process server must be filed with the clerk. You should discuss how this will occur with the private process server.

IF THE OTHER PARTY LIVES IN ANOTHER COUNTY: If the other party lives in another county, service needs to be made by a sheriff in the county where the other party lives or by a private process server certified in the county where the other party lives. Make sure that you attach a copy of the papers you want personally served to the summons as well as the **Process Service Memorandum**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.910(b). If you want the sheriff to serve the papers, the clerk may send your papers to that sheriff's office for you, or you may have to send the papers yourself. The clerk will tell you which procedure to use. Either way, you will need to provide the sheriff with a stamped envelope addressed to you. This will allow the sheriff to send the proof of service to you, after the sheriff serves your papers on the other party. You should file the proof of service with the clerk after you receive it from the sheriff. Also, you will need to find out how much the sheriff charges to serve the papers. Personal checks are not accepted. You should attach to the summons a cashier's check or money order made payable to the sheriff, and either give it to the clerk for delivery to the sheriff or send all of the paperwork and the fee to the sheriff yourself. The clerk will tell you which procedure to use. The costs for service may be waived if you are indigent.

If you want a private process server to serve the other party, you should still bring the summons to the clerk's office where the clerk will sign it for you. You should deliver the summons, along with the copy of your initial petition and any other papers to be served, and a **Process Service Memorandum**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.910(b), to the private process server. The private process server will charge you a fee for serving the papers. After service is complete, proof of service by the private process server must be filed with the clerk. You should discuss how this will occur with the private process server.

IF THE OTHER PARTY CANNOT BE LOCATED OR DOES NOT LIVE IN FLORIDA: If, after you have made a diligent effort to locate the other party, you absolutely cannot locate the other party, you may serve the other party by publication. Service by publication is also known as **constructive service**. You may also be able to use constructive service if the other party does not live in Florida. **However, Florida courts have only limited jurisdiction over a party who is served by constructive service and may have only limited jurisdiction over a party living outside of Florida regardless of whether that party is served by constructive or personal service;** that is, the judge's power to order the other party to do certain things may be limited. For example, the judge may be able to grant your request for a divorce, but the judge may not be able to address issues such as child support, spousal support (alimony), or division of property or debts.

Regardless of the type of service used, if the other party once lived in Florida but is living outside of Florida now, you should include in your petition a statement regarding the length of time the party lived in Florida, if any, and when. For example: "Respondent last lived in Florida from {date} _____ to {date} _____."

This area of the law is very complex and you may need to consult with an attorney regarding the proper type of service to be used in your case if the other party does not live in Florida or cannot be located.

What happens when the papers are served on the other party?

The date and hour of service are written on the original summons and on all copies of it by the person making the service. The person who delivers the summons and copies of the petition must file a proof of service with the clerk or provide a proof of service to you for filing with the court. **It is your responsibility to make sure the proof of service has been returned to the clerk and placed in your case file.**

What should I do next?

A copy of this form must be filed with the court and served on the other party or his or her attorney. The copy you are serving to the other party must be either mailed, e-mailed, or hand-delivered to the opposing party or his or her attorney on the same day indicated on the certificate of service. If it is mailed, it must be postmarked on the date indicated in the certificate of service. Service must be in accordance with Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-FILING

The Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration now require that all petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file petitions or other pleadings or documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your pleadings or other documents electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the judicial circuit in which you file. The rules and procedures should be carefully read and followed.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-SERVICE ELECTION

After the initial service of process of the petition or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in certain circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration.** If you elect to participate in electronic service, which means serving or receiving pleadings by electronic mail (e-mail), or through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, you must review Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at www.flcourts.org through the link to the Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MAY SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO. If a self-represented litigant elects to serve and receive documents by email, the procedures must always be followed once the initial election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915; and Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516.

Where can I look for more information?

Before proceeding, you should read “General Information for Self-Represented Litigants” found at the beginning of these forms. For further information regarding service of process, see chapters 48 and 49, Florida Statutes, and Florida Family Law Rule of Procedure 12.070, as well as the instructions for **Notice of Action for Dissolution of Marriage (No Child or Financial Support)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.913(a)(1), **Notice of Action for Family Cases with Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.913(a)(2), **Affidavit of Diligent Service and Inquiry**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.913(b), and **Affidavit of Diligent Search**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.913(c).

Special notes . . .

If you have been unable to obtain proper service on the other party within **120 days** after filing your lawsuit, the court will dismiss your lawsuit against the other party unless you can show the court a good reason why service was not made within **120 days**. For this reason, if you had the local sheriff serve the papers, you should check with the clerk every couple of weeks after completing the service papers to see if service has been completed. You may need to supply the sheriff with a new or better address. If you had a private process server or a sheriff in another county serve the papers, you should be in contact with that person or sheriff until you receive proof of service from that person or sheriff. You should then file the proof of service with the clerk immediately.

Instructions for Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.910(a), Summons: Personal Service on an Individual (10/21)

If the other party fails to respond, i.e., fails to file a written response with the court, within **20 days** after the service of the summons, you are entitled to request a **default**. See the instructions to **Motion for Default**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.922 (a), and **Default**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.922(b), for further information. You will need to file an **Affidavit of Military Service**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.912(b), before a default may be granted.

Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900(a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____

Division: _____

_____,
Petitioner,

and

_____,
Respondent.

SUMMONS: PERSONAL SERVICE ON AN INDIVIDUAL
ORDEN DE COMPARECENCIA: SERVICIO PERSONAL EN UN INDIVIDUO
CITATION: L'ASSIGNATION PERSONAL SUR UN INDIVIDUEL

TO/PARA/A: {enter other party's full legal name} _____
{address (including city and state)/location for service} _____.

IMPORTANT

A lawsuit has been filed against you. You have **20 calendar days** after this summons is served on you to file a written response to the attached complaint/petition with the clerk of this circuit court, located at: {street address} _____.

A phone call will not protect you. Your written response, including the case number given above and the names of the parties, must be **filed** if you want the Court to hear your side of the case.

If you do not file your written response on time, you may lose the case, and your wages, money, and property may be taken thereafter without further warning from the Court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may call an attorney referral service or a legal aid office (listed in the phone book).

If you choose to file a written response yourself, at the same time you file your written response to the Court, you must also serve a copy of your written response on the party serving this summons at:

{Name and address of party serving summons} _____

If the party serving summons has designated email address(es) for service or is represented by an attorney, you may designate email address(es) for service by or on you. Service must be in accordance with Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516.

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents, upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and Email Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed to the address on record at the clerk's office.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

IMPORTANTE

Usted ha sido demandado legalmente. Tiene veinte (20) días, contados a partir del recibo de esta notificación, para contestar la demanda adjunta, por escrito, y presentarla ante este tribunal. Localizado en: _____. Una llamada telefónica no lo protegerá. Si usted desea que el tribunal considere su defensa, debe presentar su respuesta por escrito, incluyendo el número del caso y los nombres de las partes interesadas. Si usted no contesta la demanda a tiempo, pudiese perder el caso y podría ser despojado de sus ingresos y propiedades, o privado de sus derechos, sin previo aviso del tribunal. Existen otros requisitos legales. Si lo desea, usted puede consultar a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a una de las oficinas de asistencia legal que aparecen en la guía telefónica.

Si desea responder a la demanda por su cuenta, al mismo tiempo en que presente su respuesta ante el tribunal, usted debe enviar por correo o entregar una copia de su respuesta a la persona denominada abajo.

Si usted elige presentar personalmente una respuesta por escrito, en el mismo momento que usted presente su respuesta por escrito al Tribunal, usted debe enviar por correo o llevar una copia de su respuesta por escrito a la parte entregando esta orden de comparecencia a:

Nombre y dirección de la parte que entrega la orden de comparecencia: _____

Copias de todos los documentos judiciales de este caso, incluyendo las ordenes, están disponibles en la oficina del Secretario de Juzgado del Circuito [Clerk of the Circuit Court's office]. Estos documentos pueden ser revisados a su solicitud.

Usted debe de mantener informada a la oficina del Secretario de Juzgado del Circuito de su dirección actual. (Usted puede presentar ____ el Formulario: Ley de Familia de la Florida 12.915, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, [Designation of Current Mailing and Email Address].) Los papeles que se presenten en el futuro en esta demanda judicial serán enviados por correo a la dirección que este registrada en la oficina del Secretario.

ADVERTENCIA: Regla 12.285 (Rule 12.285), de las Reglas de Procedimiento de Ley de Familia de la Florida [Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure], requiere cierta revelación automática de documentos e información. El incumplimiento, puede resultar en sanciones, incluyendo la desestimación o anulación de los alegatos.

IMPORTANT

Des poursuites judiciaires ont été entreprises contre vous. Vous avez 20 jours consécutifs à partir de la date de l'assignation de cette citation pour déposer une réponse écrite à la plainte ci-jointe auprès de ce

tribunal. Qui se trouve a: {L'Adresse} _____. Un simple coup de telephone est insuffisant pour vous proteger; vous etes obliges de deposter votre reponse ecrite, avec mention du numero de dossier ci-dessus et du nom des parties nommees ici, si vous souhaitez que le tribunal entende votre cause. Si vous ne deposez pas votre reponse ecrite dans le delai requis, vous risquez de perdre la cause ainsi que votre salaire, votre argent, et vos biens peuvent etre saisis par la suite, sans aucun preavis ulterieur du tribunal. Il y a d'autres obligations juridiques et vous pouvez requerir les services immediats d'un avocat. Si vous ne connaissez pas d'avocat, vous pourriez telephoner a un service de reference d'avocats ou a un bureau d'assistance juridique (figurant a l'annuaire de telephones).

Si vous choisissez de deposter vous-meme une reponse ecrite, il vous faudra egalement, en meme temps que cette formalite, faire parvenir ou expedier une copie au carbone ou une photocopie de votre reponse ecrite a la partie qui vous depose cette citation.

Nom et adresse de la partie qui depose cette citation: _____

Les photocopies de tous les documents tribunaux de cette cause, y compris des arrêts, sont disponibles au bureau du greffier. Vous pouvez revue ces documents, sur demande.

Il faut aviser le greffier de votre adresse actuelle. (Vous pouvez deposter Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, Designation of Current Mailing and Email Address.) Les documents de l'avenir de ce proces seront envoyer a l'adresse que vous donnez au bureau du greffier.

ATTENTION: La regle 12.285, des regles de procedure du droit de la famille de la Floride exige que l'on remette certains renseignements et certains documents a la partie adverse. Tout refus de les fournir pourra donner lieu a des sanctions, y compris le rejet ou la suppression d'un ou de plusieurs actes de procedure.

THE STATE OF FLORIDA

TO EACH SHERIFF OF THE STATE: You are commanded to serve this summons and a copy of the complaint in this lawsuit on the above-named person.

DATED: _____

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

(SEAL)

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA SUPREME COURT APPROVED FAMILY LAW FORM 12.910(b), PROCESS SERVICE MEMORANDUM (11/15)

When should this form be used?

You should use this form to give the sheriff's department (or private process server) instructions for serving the other party in your case with the **Summons: Personal Service on an Individual**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.910(a), and other papers to be served. On this form you can tell the sheriff's department the best times to find the person at work and/or at home. You can also include a map to the other person's home or work place to help the sheriff find the person and deliver the summons. Do not forget to attach to the summons a copy of your initial petition and any other papers you want personally served on the other party.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. After completing this form, you should **file** the original with the clerk of the circuit court in the county where your petition was filed and attach a copy to the **Summons: Personal Service on an Individual**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.910(a). You should also keep a copy for your records.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-FILING

The Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file petitions or other pleadings or documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your pleadings or other documents electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the judicial circuit in which you file. **The rules and procedures should be carefully read and followed.**

Where can I look for more information?

Before proceeding, you should read General Information for Self-Represented Litigants found at the beginning of these forms. You should read the instructions for **Summons: Personal Service on an Individual**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.910(a), for additional information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-SERVICE ELECTION

After the initial service of process of the petition or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in certain circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Rules of Judicial Administration.** If you elect to participate in electronic service, which means serving or receiving pleadings by electronic mail (e-mail), or through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, you **must** review Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at www.flcourts.org through the link to the Rules of Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MAY SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT

REQUIRED TO DO SO. If a self-represented litigant elects to serve and receive documents by e-mail, the procedures must always be followed once the initial election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915; and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516.

Special notes...

If you fear that disclosing your address would put you in danger because you are the victim of sexual battery, aggravated child abuse, stalking, aggravated stalking, harassment, aggravated battery, or domestic violence, you should complete a **Request for Confidential Filing of Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.980(h), file it with the clerk, and write confidential in the space provided on the petition.

Nonlawyer. Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900 (a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____

Division: _____

_____,
Petitioner,

and

_____,
Respondent,

PROCESS SERVICE MEMORANDUM

TO: _____ Sheriff of _____ County, Florida; _____ Division
_____ Private process server: _____

Please serve the *{name of document(s)}* _____

in the above-styled cause upon:

Party: *{full legal name}* _____

Address or location for service: _____

Work Address: _____

If the party to be served owns, has, and/or is known to have guns or other weapons, describe what type of weapon(s): _____

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: _____

Dated: _____

Signature of Party

*Printed Name: _____

*Address: _____

*City, State, Zip: _____

*Telephone Number: _____

*Fax Number: _____

*Designated E-mail Address(es) _____

*** Please see the Special Notes section in the instructions to this form regarding Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.980(h), Request for Confidential Filing of Address, which may be used if you need to keep your addresses or telephone numbers confidential for safety reasons.**

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:

[fill in **all** blanks] This form was prepared for the Petitioner. This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual} _____,

{name of business} _____,

{address} _____,

{city} _____, *{state}* _____, *{zip code}* _____, *{telephone number}* _____

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA SUPREME COURT APPROVED FAMILY
LAW FORM 12.903(a)
ANSWER, WAIVER, AND REQUEST FOR COPY OF FINAL JUDGMENT OF
DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE
(02/18)**

When should this form be used?

This form should be used when you have been served with a petition for dissolution of marriage and you do not wish to contest it or appear at a hearing. If you file this form, you are admitting all of the allegations in the petition, saying that you do not need to be notified of or appear at the final hearing, and that you would like a copy of the final judgment mailed to you.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink, and your signature should be witnessed by a notary public or deputy clerk. After completing this form, you should sign the form before a notary public. You should file the original with the clerk of the circuit court in the county where the petition was filed and keep a copy for your records. The person filing the petition in a dissolution of marriage proceeding is also referred to as the petitioner and his or her spouse as the respondent.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-FILING

The Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file petitions or other pleadings or documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your pleadings or other documents electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the judicial circuit in which you file. **The rules and procedures should be carefully read and followed.**

What should I do next?

You have 20 days to answer after being served with your spouse's petition. A copy of this form, along with all of the other forms required with this answer and waiver, must be mailed, e-mailed, or hand delivered to your spouse.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-SERVICE ELECTION

After the initial service of process of the petition or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in

certain circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Rules of Judicial Administration.** If you elect to participate in electronic service, which means receiving pleadings by electronic mail (e-mail), or through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, you must review Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at www.flcourts.org through the link to the Rules of Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MAY SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO. If a self-represented litigant elects to serve and receive documents by e-mail, the procedures must always be followed once the initial election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915; and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516.

Where can I look for more information?

Before proceeding, you should read General Information for Self-Represented Litigants found at the beginning of these forms. The words that are in **bold underline** in these instructions are defined there. For further information, see chapter 61, Florida Statutes.

Special notes...

With this form, you may also file the following:

- **Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) Affidavit**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(d), if the case involves a dependent or minor child(ren).
- **Child Support Guidelines Worksheet**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(e), if the case involves a dependent or minor child(ren). (If you do not know your spouse's income, you may file this worksheet after your spouse's financial affidavit has been served on you).
- **Marital Settlement Agreement for Dissolution of Marriage with Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(f)(1), or **Marital Settlement Agreement for Dissolution of Marriage with No Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(f)(2), if you have reached an agreement on any or all of the issues.
- **Notice of Social Security Number**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form

Instructions for Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.903(a), Answer, Waiver, and Request for Copy of Final Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage (02/18)

12.902(j).

- **Family Law Financial Affidavit**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(b) or (c). (This must be filed within 45 days of service of the petition on you, if not filed at the time you file this answer.)
- **Certificate of Compliance with Mandatory Disclosure**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.932. (This must be filed within 45 days of service of the petition on you, if not filed at the time you file this answer, unless you and the other party have agreed not to exchange these documents.)

Parenting Plan and Time-Sharing. By filing this answer and waiver, you are agreeing to any parenting plan and time-sharing requests in the petition. The judge may request a **parenting plan recommendation** or appoint a **guardian ad litem** in your case. This means that a neutral person will review your situation and report to the judge concerning parenting issues. The purpose of such intervention is to be sure that the best interests of the child(ren) is (are) being served. For more information, you may consult section 61.13, Florida Statutes.

A **parenting course** must be completed prior to entry of a final judgment. You should contact the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant about requirements for parenting courses where you live.

Listed below are some terms with which you should become familiar before completing your answer to the petition. **If you do not fully understand any of the terms below or their implications, you should speak with an attorney before going any further.**

- **Shared Parental Responsibility**
- **Sole Parental Responsibility**
- **Supervised Time-Sharing**
- **No contact**
- **Parenting Plan**
- **Parenting Plan Recommendation**
- **Time-Sharing Schedule**

Child Support. By filing this answer and waiver, you are agreeing to any requests for child support in the petition. **Both parents are required to provide financial support for their minor or dependent child(ren);** however, the court may order one parent to pay child support to the other parent. Florida has adopted guidelines for determining the amount of child support to be paid. These guidelines are based on the combined income of **both** parents and take into account the financial contributions of both parents and the number of overnights the child(ren) spend with each parent. You must file a **Family Law Financial Affidavit**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(b) or (c), and your spouse will be required to do the same. From your financial affidavits, you should be able to calculate the amount of child support that should be paid using the **Child Support Guidelines Worksheet**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(e). Because the child support guidelines take several factors into consideration, change over time, and vary from state to

state, your child support obligation may be more or less than that of other people in seemingly similar situations.

Alimony. By filing this answer and waiver, you are agreeing to any requests for alimony in the petition. Alimony may be awarded to a spouse if the judge finds that one spouse has an actual need for it and also finds that the other spouse has the ability to pay. **If you want alimony, you must request it in writing in a counterpetition and should not use this form. If you do not request alimony in writing before the final hearing, it is waived (you may not request it later).** You may request permanent alimony, bridge-the-gap alimony, durational alimony, and/or rehabilitative alimony. If alimony is awarded, the judge may order periodic payments, payments in lump sum, or both.

Marital/Nonmarital Assets and Liabilities. Florida law requires an **equitable distribution** of marital assets and marital liabilities. “Equitable” does not necessarily mean “equal.” Many factors, including child support, time-sharing and alimony awards, may lead the court to make an unequal (but still equitable) distribution of assets and liabilities. Nonmarital assets and nonmarital liabilities are those assets and liabilities which the parties agree or the court determines belong to, or are the responsibility of, only one of the parties. By filing this answer and waiver, you are agreeing to any requests in the petition regarding division of assets and liabilities.

Final Judgment. You should receive a copy of the Final Judgment in the mail. If, for some reason you do not, you should contact the clerk’s office to request a copy. It is important for you to review a copy of the Final Judgment in your case to see what happened and to know what you must do and what you are entitled to receive.

Nonlawyer. Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of a **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900(a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No: _____

Division: _____

In re: the Marriage of:

_____,
Petitioner,

and

_____,
Respondent

ANSWER, WAIVER, AND REQUEST FOR COPY OF FINAL JUDGMENT OF DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

I, *{full legal name}* _____, being sworn, certify that the following information is true:

1. I answer the Petition for Dissolution of Marriage filed in this action and admit all the allegations. By admitting all of the allegations in the petition, I agree to all relief requested in the petition including any requests regarding parenting and time-sharing, child support, alimony, distribution of marital assets and liabilities, and temporary relief.
2. I hereby waive notice of hearing as well as all future notices in connection with the Petition for Dissolution of Marriage, as filed and also waive my appearance at the final hearing.
3. I request that a copy of the Final Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage entered in this case be provided to me at the address below.
4. If this case involves minor child(ren), a completed Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) Affidavit, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(d), is filed with this answer.
5. A completed Notice of Social Security Number, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(j), is filed with this answer.
6. A completed Family Law Financial Affidavit, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(b) or (c), _____ is filed with this answer or _____ will be timely filed.

I certify that a copy of this document was _____ mailed _____ faxed and mailed _____ e-mailed _____ hand delivered to the person(s) listed below on {date} _____.

Other party or his/her attorney:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Fax Number: _____

Designated E-mail Address(es): _____

I understand that I am swearing or affirming under oath to the truthfulness of the claims made in this answer and that the punishment for knowingly making a false statement includes fines and/or imprisonment.

Dated: _____

Signature of Respondent

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Designated E-mail Address(es): _____

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to or affirmed and signed before me on _____ by _____.

NOTARY PUBLIC or DEPUTY CLERK

[Print, type, or stamp commissioned name of notary or deputy clerk.]

_____ Personally known

_____ Produced identification

_____ Type of identification produced _____

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:

[fill in **all** blanks] This form was prepared for the _____ Respondent

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual} _____,

{name of business} _____,

{address} _____,

{city} _____, {state} _____, {zip code, } _____, {telephone number} _____.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA SUPREME COURT APPROVED
FAMILY LAW FORM 12.903(b)
ANSWER TO PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE
(02/18)**

When should this form be used?

This form should be used when you are responding to a **petition** for **dissolution of marriage** and you wish to admit or deny all of the allegations in the petition but you do not plan to file a **counterpetition** seeking relief. You can use this form to answer any petition for dissolution of marriage, whether or not there are minor child(ren).

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. After completing this form, you should sign the form before a **notary public** or **deputy clerk**. You should **file** the original with the **clerk of the circuit court** in the county where the petition was filed and keep a copy for your records. This must be done within 20 days of receiving the petition.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-FILING

The Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file petitions or other pleadings or documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your pleadings or other documents electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the judicial circuit in which you file. **The rules and procedures should be carefully read and followed.**

What should I do next?

A copy of this form, along with all of the other forms required with this **answer**, must be mailed, e-mailed, or hand delivered to the other party in your case. You have 20 days to answer after being served with the other party's petition. After you file your answer, the case will generally proceed in one of the following two ways:

UNCONTESTED. If you file an answer that agrees with everything in the other party's petition **and** you have complied with **mandatory disclosure** and filed all of the required papers, either party may contact the clerk, **family law intake staff**, or **judicial assistant** to set a **final hearing**. If you request the final hearing, you must notify the other party of the hearing by using a **Notice of Hearing (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.923, or other appropriate notice of hearing form.

CONTESTED. If you file an answer which disagrees with or denies anything in the petition, **and** you are unable to settle the disputed issues, either party may file a **Notice for Trial**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.924, after you have complied with mandatory disclosure and filed all of the required papers. Some circuits may require the completion of **mediation** before a final hearing may be set. You should contact the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant for instructions on how to set your case for trial (final hearing).

Where can I look for more information?

Before proceeding, you should read “General Information for Self-Represented Litigants” found at the beginning of these forms. The words that are in “**bold underline**” in these instructions are defined there. See chapter 61, Florida Statutes, for more information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-SERVICE ELECTION

After the initial service of process of the petition or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in certain circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Rules of Judicial Administration.** If you elect to participate in electronic service, which means serving or receiving pleadings by electronic mail (e-mail), or through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, you must review Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at www.flcourts.org through the link to the Rules of Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MAY SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO. If a self-represented litigant elects to serve and receive documents by e-mail, the procedures must always be followed once the initial election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915; and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516.

Special notes...

With this form, you may also need to file the following:

- **Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) Affidavit**, Florida

Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(d), if the case involves a dependent or minor child(ren).

- **Child Support Guidelines Worksheet**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(e), if the case involves a dependent or minor child(ren). (If you do not know the other party's income, you may file this worksheet after his or her financial affidavit has been served on you).
- **Marital Settlement Agreement for Dissolution of Marriage with Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(f)(1), or **Marital Settlement Agreement for Dissolution of Marriage with Property but No Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(f)(2), if you have reached an agreement on any or all of the issues.
- **Notice of Social Security Number**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(j).
- **Family Law Financial Affidavit**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(b) or (c). (This must be filed within 45 days of service of the petition on you, if not filed at the time you file this answer.)
- **Certificate of Compliance with Mandatory Disclosure**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.932. (This must be filed within 45 days of service of the petition on you, if not filed at the time you file this answer, unless you and the other party have agreed not to exchange these documents.)

Parenting and Time-sharing. If you and your spouse are unable to agree on parenting arrangements and a time-sharing schedule, a judge will decide for you as part of establishing a Parenting Plan. The judge will decide the parenting arrangements and time-sharing schedule based on the child(ren)'s best interests. Regardless of whether there is an agreement, the court reserves jurisdiction to modify issues relating to the minor child(ren).

The judge may request a parenting plan recommendation or appoint a guardian ad litem in your case. This means that a neutral person will review your situation and report to the judge concerning parenting issues. The purpose of such intervention is to be sure that the best interests of the child(ren) is (are) being served. For more information, you may consult section 61.13, Florida Statutes.

A parenting course must be completed prior to the entry of a final judgment. You should contact the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant about requirements for parenting courses where you live.

Listed below are some terms with which you should become familiar before completing your answer to the petition. **If you do not fully understand any of the terms below or their implications, you should speak with an attorney before going any further.**

- Shared Parental Responsibility
- Sole Parental Responsibility
- Supervised Time-Sharing

- No contact
- Parenting Plan
- Parenting Plan Recommendation
- Time-Sharing Schedule

Child Support. Both parents are required to provide financial support for their minor or dependent child(ren); however, the court may order one parent to pay child support to the other parent. Florida has adopted guidelines for determining the amount of child support to be paid. These guidelines are based on the combined income of **both** parents and take into account the financial contributions of both parents and the number of overnights the child(ren) spend with each parent. You must file a **Family Law Financial Affidavit**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(b) or (c), and your spouse will be required to do the same. From your financial affidavits, you should be able to calculate the amount of child support that should be paid using the **Child Support Guidelines Worksheet**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(e). Because the child support guidelines take several factors into consideration, change over time, and vary from state to state, your child support obligation may be more or less than that of other people in seemingly similar situations.

Alimony. Alimony may be awarded to a spouse if the judge finds that one spouse has an actual need for it and that the other spouse has the ability to pay. **If you want alimony, you must request it in writing in a counterpetition.** Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.903(c)(1) (with dependent or minor child(ren)), or Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.903(c)(2) (no dependent or minor child(ren)). **If you do not request alimony in writing before the final hearing, it is waived (you may not request it later).** You may request permanent alimony, bridge-the-gap alimony, durational alimony, and/or rehabilitative alimony. If alimony is awarded, the judge may order periodic payments, payments in lump sum, or both.

Marital/Nonmarital Assets and Liabilities. Florida law requires an **equitable distribution** of marital assets and marital liabilities. “Equitable” does not necessarily mean “equal.” Many factors, including child support, any parenting plan and time-sharing schedule, and alimony awards, may lead the court to make an unequal (but still equitable) distribution of assets and liabilities.

Nonmarital assets and nonmarital liabilities are those assets and liabilities which the parties agree or the court determines belong to, or are the responsibility of, only one of the parties. If the parties agree or the court finds an asset or liability to be nonmarital, the judge will not consider it when distributing marital assets and liabilities.

Temporary Relief. If you need temporary relief regarding temporary use of assets, temporary responsibility for liabilities, parental responsibility and time-sharing with child(ren), temporary child support, or temporary alimony, you may file a **Motion for Temporary Support and Time-Sharing with Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.947(a), or, if there are no dependent or minor child(ren), **Motion for Temporary Support with No Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.947(c). For more information, see the instructions for these forms.

Marital Settlement Agreement. If you and your spouse are able to reach an agreement on any or all of the issues, you should file a **Marital Settlement Agreement for Dissolution of Marriage with Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(f)(1), or **Marital Settlement Agreement for Dissolution of Marriage with No Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(f)(2). Both parties must sign this agreement before a **notary public** or **deputy clerk**. Any issues on which you are unable to agree will be considered **contested** and settled by the judge at the final hearing.

Final Judgment Form. These family law forms contain a **Final Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage with Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.990(c)(1), and **Final Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage with Property but No Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.990(c)(2), which the judge may use if your case is contested. If you and your spouse reach an agreement on all of the issues, the judge may use **Final Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage with Dependent or Minor Child(ren) (Uncontested)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.990(b)(1), **Final Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage with Property but No Dependent or Minor Child(ren) (Uncontested)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.990(b)(2), or **Final Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage with No Property and No Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.990(b)(3). You should contact the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant to see if you need to bring a **final judgment** with you to the **hearing**. If so, you should type or print the heading, including the circuit, county, case number, division, and the parties' names, and leave the rest blank for the judge to complete at your hearing or trial.

Nonlawyer. Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of a **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900(a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

In re: The Marriage of

Case No.: _____

Division: _____

_____,
Petitioner,

and

_____,
Respondent.

ANSWER TO PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

I, {full legal name} _____, Respondent, being sworn,
certify that the following information is true:

1. I **agree** with Petitioner as to the allegations raised in the following numbered paragraphs in the Petition and, therefore, **admit** those allegations: {indicate section and paragraph number}

2. I **disagree** with Petitioner as to the allegations raised in the following numbered paragraphs in the Petition and, therefore, **deny** those allegations: {indicate section and paragraph number}

3. I currently am unable to admit or deny the allegations raised in the following paragraphs due to lack of information: {indicate section and paragraph number} _____

4. If this case involves a dependent or minor child(ren), a completed Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) Affidavit, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(d), is filed with this answer.
5. If this case involves a dependent or minor child(ren), a completed Child Support Guidelines Worksheet, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(e), is [choose **one** only] _____ filed with this answer or _____ will be filed after the other party serves his or her financial affidavit.
6. If necessary a completed Notice of Social Security Number, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(j), is filed with this answer.
7. A completed Family Law Financial Affidavit, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(b) or (c), [Choose only **one**] _____ is filed with this answer or _____ will be timely filed.

I certify that a copy of this document was () mailed () faxed and mailed () e-mailed () hand delivered to the person(s) listed below on {date} _____.

Petitioner or his/her attorney:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Fax Number: _____

Designated E-mail Address(es): _____

I understand that I am swearing or affirming under oath to the truthfulness of the claims made in this answer and that the punishment for knowingly making a false statement includes fines and/or imprisonment.

Dated: _____

Signature of Respondent

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Designated E-mail Address(es): _____

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to or affirmed and signed before me on _____ by _____.

NOTARY PUBLIC or DEPUTY CLERK

[Print, type, or stamp commissioned name of notary or clerk.]

____ Personally known

____ Produced identification

____ Type of identification produced _____

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:

[fill in **all** blanks] This form was prepared for the Respondent.

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual} _____,

{name of business} _____,

{address} _____,

{city} _____, {state} _____, {zip code} _____, {telephone number} _____.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA SUPREME COURT APPROVED FAMILY LAW
FORM 12.903(c)(3)
ANSWER TO PETITION AND COUNTERPETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF
MARRIAGE WITH NO DEPENDENT OR MINOR CHILD(REN) OR PROPERTY
(02/18)**

When should this form be used?

This form should be used when you are responding to a petition for dissolution of marriage with no dependent or minor child(ren) or property and you are asking the court for something not contained in the petition. The answer portion of this form is used to admit or deny the allegations contained in the petition, and the counterpetition portion of this form is used to ask for whatever you want the court to do for you such as restoring your former name.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. After completing this form, you should sign the form before a notary public or deputy clerk. You should file the original with the clerk of the circuit court in the county where the petition was filed and keep a copy for your records.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-FILING

The Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file petitions or other pleadings or documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your pleadings or other documents electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the judicial circuit in which you file. **The rules and procedures should be carefully read and followed.**

What should I do next?

You have 20 days to answer after being served with the other party's petition. A copy of this form must be mailed, e-mailed, or hand delivered to the other party. After you file an answer and counterpetition your case will then generally proceed as follows:

The other party is required to answer your counterpetition within 20 days using an **Answer to Counterpetition**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.903(d).

UNCONTESTED. Your dissolution is uncontested if you and your spouse agree on all issues raised in the petition and the counterpetition. If this is the case, **and** you and the other party have complied with mandatory disclosure and filed all of the required papers, either party may contact the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant to set a final hearing. If you request the hearing, you must notify the other party of the hearing by using a **Notice of Hearing (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.923, or other appropriate notice of hearing form.

CONTESTED. Your dissolution is contested if you and your spouse disagree on any issues raised in the petition or counterpetition. If you are unable to settle the disputed issues, either party may file a **Notice for Trial**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.924, after you have complied with mandatory disclosure and filed all of the required papers. Some circuits may require the completion of **mediation** before a final hearing may be set. You should contact the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant for instructions on how to set your case for **trial** (final hearing).

Where can I look for more information?

Before proceeding, you should read General Information for Self-Represented Litigants found at the beginning of these forms. The words that are in **bold underline** in these instructions are defined there. For further information, see chapter 61, Florida Statutes.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-SERVICE ELECTION

After the initial service of process of the petition or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in certain circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Rules of Judicial Administration.** If you elect to participate in electronic service, which means serving or receiving pleadings by electronic mail (e-mail), or through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, you **must** review Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at www.flcourts.org through the link to the Rules of Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MAY SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO. If a self-represented litigant elects to serve and receive documents by e-mail, the procedures must always be followed once the initial election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915; and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516.

Special notes...

With this form, you must also file the following:

- **Affidavit of Corroborating Witness**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(i) **OR** photocopy of current Florida driver's license, Florida identification card, or voter's registration card (issue date of copied document must be at least six months before date case is actually filed with the clerk of the circuit court).

Instructions for Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.903(c)(3), Answer to Petition and Counterpetition for Dissolution of Marriage with No Dependent or Minor Child(ren) or Property (02/18)

- **Notice of Social Security Number**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(j).
- **Family Law Financial Affidavit**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(b) or (c). (This must be filed within 45 days of service of the petition on you, if not filed at the time you file this answer.)
- **Certificate of Compliance with Mandatory Disclosure**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.932. (This must be filed within 45 days of **service** of the petition on you, if not filed at the time you file this answer, unless you and the other party have agreed not to exchange these documents.)

Alimony. By using this form, you are forever giving up your rights to spousal support (alimony) from petitioner. Alimony may be awarded to a spouse if the judge finds that one spouse has an actual need for it and that the other spouse has the ability to pay. **If you want alimony, you must request it in writing** in an appropriate answer and counterpetition (see the other answer and counterpetition forms included in these forms for the appropriate form).

Marital/Nonmarital Assets and Liabilities. By using this form, you are stating that there are no marital assets and/or liabilities.

Final Judgment Form. These family law forms contain a **Final Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage with No Property or Minor Child(ren) (Uncontested)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.990(b)(3). You should check with the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant to see if you need to bring a final judgment with you to the hearing. If so, you should type or print the heading, including the circuit, county, case number, division, and the parties' names, and leave the rest blank for the judge to complete at your hearing or trial.

Nonlawyer. Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of a **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900(a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____

Division: _____

In re: The Marriage of:

_____,
Petitioner/Counter-Respondent,

and

_____,
Respondent/Counter-Petitioner

ANSWER TO PETITION AND COUNTERPETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE WITH NO DEPENDENT OR MINOR CHILD(REN) OR PROPERTY

I, {full legal name} _____, Respondent/Counter-
Petitioner, being sworn, certify that the following information is true:

ANSWER TO PETITION

1. I **agree** with Petitioner as to the allegations raised in the following numbered paragraphs in the Petition and, therefore, **admit** those allegations: {indicate section and paragraph number} _____.
_____.
2. I **disagree** with Petitioner as to the allegations raised in the following numbered paragraphs in the Petition and, therefore, **deny** those allegations: {indicate section and paragraph number} _____.
_____.
3. I currently am unable to admit or deny the following paragraphs due to lack of information:
{indicate section and paragraph number} _____.
_____.

COUNTERPETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE WITH NO DEPENDENT OR MINOR CHILD(REN) OR PROPERTY

1. JURISDICTION/RESIDENCE
_____ Respondent/Counter-Petitioner _____ Petitioner/Counter-Respondent _____ Both has
(have) lived in Florida for at least 6 months before the filing of this Petition for Dissolution of
Marriage.
2. Respondent/Counter-Petitioner _____ is or _____ is not a member of the military service.

Petitioner/Counter-Respondent _____ is or _____ is not a member of the military service.

3. MARRIAGE HISTORY

Date of marriage: {month, day, year} _____

Place of marriage: {city, state, country} _____

Date of separation: {month, day, year} _____ (_____ Indicate **if** approximate)

4. THERE ARE NO MINOR (under 18) OR DEPENDENT CHILD(REN) COMMON TO BOTH PARTIES AND NEITHER SPOUSE IS PREGNANT.

5. A completed Notice of Social Security Number, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(j), is filed with this counterpetition.

6. THIS COUNTERPETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE SHOULD BE GRANTED BECAUSE:

a. _____ The marriage is irretrievably broken.

OR

b. _____ One of the parties has been adjudged mentally incapacitated for a period of 3 years before the filing of this counterpetition. A copy of the Judgment of Incapacity is attached.

7. THERE ARE NO MARITAL ASSETS OR LIABILITIES.

8. **RESPONDENT/COUNTER-PETITIONER FOREVER GIVES UP ANY RIGHTS TO SPOUSAL SUPPORT (ALIMONY) FROM PETITIONER/COUNTER-RESPONDENT.**

9. _____ Respondent/Counter-Petitioner wants to be known by the former legal name, which was {former legal name} _____.

10. Other relief {specify}: _____

REQUEST (This section summarizes what you are asking the Court to include in the final judgment of dissolution of marriage.)

Respondent/Counter-Petitioner requests that the Court enter an order dissolving the marriage **and**:

1. _____ restoring Respondent/Counter-Petitioner's former name as specified in paragraph 9 of this petition;

2. _____ awarding other relief as specified in paragraph 10 of this petition; and any other terms the Court deems necessary.

I certify that a copy of this document was () mailed () faxed and mailed () e-mailed () hand delivered to the person(s) listed below on {date} _____.

Petitioner/Counter-Respondent or his/her attorney:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Fax Number: _____

Designated E-mail Address(es): _____

I understand that I am swearing or affirming under oath to the truthfulness of the claims made in this answer and counterpetition and that the punishment for knowingly making a false statement includes fines and/or imprisonment.

Dated: _____

Signature of Respondent/Counter-Petitioner

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Designated E-mail Addresses: _____

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to or affirmed and signed before me on _____ by _____.

NOTARY PUBLIC or DEPUTY CLERK

[Print, type, or stamp commissioned name of notary or clerk.]

_____ Personally known

_____ Produced identification

_____ Type of identification produced _____

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:

[fill in **all** blanks] This form was prepared for the Respondent/Counter-Petitioner

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual} _____,

{name of business} _____,

{address} _____,

{city} _____, *{state}* _____, *{zip code}* _____, *{telephone number}* _____.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA SUPREME COURT APPROVED FAMILY LAW FORMS 12.922(a), MOTION FOR DEFAULT, AND 12.922(b), DEFAULT (11/15)

When should these forms be used?

If the other **party** has failed to **file** or **serve** any documents within 20 days after the date of service of your **petition**, you may ask the **clerk of the circuit court** to enter a **default** against him or her by filling out this form and filing it with the court. Generally, a default allows you to obtain an earlier **final hearing** to finish your case. Once the default is signed by the clerk, you can request a **trial** or final hearing in your case.

To obtain a default, you will need to complete **Motion for Default**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.922(a). You will then need to file your motion for default along with the **Default**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.922(b), so that the clerk can enter a default for you if your motion is proper.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. After completing this form, you should file the original with the **clerk of the circuit court** in the county where you filed your petition and keep a copy for your records.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-FILING

The Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file petitions or other pleadings or documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your pleadings or other documents electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the judicial circuit in which you file. **The rules and procedures should be carefully read and followed.**

What should I do next?

After the default has been entered, you must ask for a hearing, so that the **judge** can consider your petition. To do this, you must contact the clerk's office, **family law intake staff**, or **judicial assistant** to schedule a hearing and file a **Notice of Hearing (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.923, with the clerk. A copy of the notice of hearing must be mailed, e-mailed, or hand-delivered to each party in the case. **You must send a notice of final hearing to the defaulted party.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-SERVICE ELECTION

After the initial service of process of the petition or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in certain circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Rules of Judicial Administration.** If you elect to participate in electronic service, which means serving or receiving pleadings by electronic mail (e-mail), or through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, you **must**

review Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at www.flcourts.org through the link to the Rules of Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MAY SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO. If a self-represented litigant elects to serve and receive documents by e-mail, the procedures must always be followed once the initial election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915; and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516.

Where can I look for more information?

Before proceeding, you should read General Information for Self-Represented Litigants found at the beginning of these forms. For further information, see Florida Rules of Civil Procedure 1.500, concerning defaults and Rule 1.140, concerning the time within which a party can file an answer or other responsive pleading to a petition. See also Florida Family Law Rule of Procedure 12.080.

Special notes...

Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900 (a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____

Division: _____

_____,
Petitioner,

and

_____,
Respondent,

MOTION FOR DEFAULT

TO THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT:

PLEASE ENTER A DEFAULT AGAINST RESPONDENT WHO HAS FAILED TO RESPOND TO THE PETITION.

I certify that a copy of this document was () mailed () faxed and mailed () e-mailed () hand-delivered to the person(s) listed below on {date} _____.

Other party or his/her attorney:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Fax Number: _____

Designated E-mail Address(es): _____

Signature of Party

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Designated E-mail Address(es): _____

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:

[fill in **all** blanks] This form was prepared for the: *{choose only one}* () Petitioner () Respondent

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual } _____,

{name of business} _____,

{address} _____,

{city} _____, *{state}* _____, *{zip code}* _____, *{telephone number}* _____.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____

Division: _____

_____,
Petitioner,

and

_____,
Respondent,

DEFAULT

A default is entered in this action against Respondent for failure to serve or file a response or any paper as is required by law.

Dated: _____

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

(SEAL)

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

I certify that a copy of this document was () mailed () faxed and mailed () e-mailed () hand-delivered to the person(s) listed below on {date} _____.

Other party or his/her attorney:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Fax Number: _____

Designated E-mail Address(es): _____

Signature of Party

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Designated E-mail Address(es): _____

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:

[fill in **all** blanks] This form was prepared for the: {choose only **one**} () Petitioner () Respondent

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual } _____,

{name of business} _____,

{address} _____,

{city} _____, {state} _____, {zip code} _____, {telephone number} _____.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA SUPREME COURT APPROVED FAMILY LAW FORM 12.912(b), AFFIDAVIT OF MILITARY SERVICE (11/15)

When should this form be used?

An Affidavit of Military Service is required in every case where the Respondent has not filed an answer or appearance. The purpose is to protect the men and women serving in the U.S. military from having a court judgment entered against them without first receiving notice of the lawsuit and a chance to defend the case.

You should use this form when ALL of the following statements are true:

- The other person in your case has been served, whether by personal service or constructive service.
- The other person in your case has not responded to your petition.
- You are requesting that the court enter a default judgment against the other person.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. After completing this form, you should sign the form before a notary public or deputy clerk. You must file the original of this form with the clerk of the circuit court when you file your **Motion for Default**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.922(a). You must also attach copies of all verifications of nonmilitary service that you received from each branch of the United States' military service. You should keep a copy for your records.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-FILING

The Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file petitions or other pleadings or documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your pleadings or other documents electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the judicial circuit in which you file. **The rules and procedures should be carefully read and followed.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-SERVICE ELECTION

After the initial service of process of the petition or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in certain circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Rules of Judicial Administration.** If you elect to participate in electronic service, which means serving or receiving pleadings by electronic mail (e-mail), or through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, you **must** review Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at www.flcourts.org through the link to the Rules of Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MAY SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO. If a self-represented litigant elects to serve and receive documents by e-mail, the procedures must always be followed once the initial election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915; and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516.

Special notes...

Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900 (a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____

Division: _____

_____,
Petitioner,

and

_____,
Respondent,

AFFIDAVIT OF MILITARY SERVICE

I, {full legal name} _____, am the Petitioner in this case. To support my application for a default judgment and to comply with the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) (formerly known as Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940), I swear or affirm that the following information is true:

{Please choose only one}

1. _____ I know of my own personal knowledge that the Respondent **IS** on active duty in the military service of the United States.
2. _____ I know of my own personal knowledge that Respondent **IS NOT** now on active duty in the military service of the United States, nor has the Respondent been on active military service of the United States within a period of thirty (30) days immediately before this date. "Active Service" includes reserve members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Marines who have been ordered to report for active duty and members of the Florida National Guard who have been ordered to report to active duty for a period of more than thirty (30) days.
3. _____ I have contacted the military services of the United States and the U.S. Public Health Service and have obtained certificates showing that the Respondent is not on active duty status. These certificates are attached.
4. _____ I have attempted to determine the military status of the Respondent, but do not have sufficient information. This is what I have done to determine whether or not Respondent is on active duty in the United States military:

I have no reason to believe that s/he is on active duty at this time.

I understand that I am swearing or affirming under oath to the truthfulness of the claims made in this affidavit and that the punishment for knowingly making a false statement includes fines and/or imprisonment.

Dated: _____

Signature of Petitioner

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Designated E-mail Address(es): _____

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to or affirmed and signed before me on _____ by _____.

NOTARY PUBLIC or DEPUTY CLERK

[Print, type, or stamp commissioned name of notary or clerk.]

_____ Personally known

_____ Produced identification

_____ Type of identification produced _____.

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:

[fill in **all** blanks] This form was prepared for the Petitioner.

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual}, _____,

{name of business} _____,

{address} _____,

{city} _____, {state} _____, {zip code} _____, {telephone number} _____.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA SUPREME COURT APPROVED FAMILY LAW
FORM 12.913(a)(1)
NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (NO CHILD OR
FINANCIAL SUPPORT)
(11/15)**

When should this form be used?

This form may be used to obtain constructive service (also called service by publication) in a dissolution of marriage case that does not involve a minor child or financial support if you do not know where your spouse lives or if your spouse lives outside Florida and you are unable to obtain personal service. Constructive notice will allow the court to dissolve the marriage, but personal service is required before a court can order payment of financial support, such as spousal support (alimony) or costs. If you are asking the court to decide how real or personal property located in Florida should be divided, the **Notice of Action** must include a specific description of the property. If you use constructive service, the court can grant only limited relief because its jurisdiction is limited. This is a complicated area of the law and you should consult an attorney before using constructive service.

You should complete this form by typing or printing the appropriate information in black ink. You should insert your spouse's name and last known address and then file this form with the clerk of the circuit court in the county where your petition for dissolution of marriage was filed. You must also complete and file an **Affidavit of Diligent Search and Inquiry**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.913(b). You should keep a copy for your records.

After the **Affidavit of Diligent Search and Inquiry**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.913(b), is filed, the clerk will sign this form. The form must then be given to a qualified local newspaper in the county where the case is pending to be published once each week for four consecutive weeks. When in doubt, ask the clerk which newspapers in your area are "qualified." The newspaper will charge you for this service. If you cannot afford to pay the cost of publication of this notice in a qualified newspaper, you may ask the clerk to post the notice at a place designated for such postings. You will need to file an **Application for Determination of Civil Indigent Status**, which you can obtain from the clerk. If the clerk determines that you cannot afford these costs, the clerk will post the notice of action.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-FILING

The Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file petitions or other pleadings or documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your pleadings or other documents electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the judicial circuit in which you file. **The rules and procedures should be carefully read and followed.**

Where can I look for more information?

Before proceeding, you should read "General Information for Self-Represented Litigants" found at the beginning of these forms. For further information, see rule 12.070, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, and chapter 49, Florida Statutes.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-SERVICE ELECTION

After the initial service of process of the petition or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in certain circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Rules of Judicial Administration.** If you elect to participate in electronic service, which means serving or receiving pleadings by electronic mail (e-mail), or through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, you **must** review Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at www.flcourts.org through the link to the Rules of Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MAY SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO. If a self-represented litigant elects to serve and receive documents by e-mail, the procedures must always be followed once the initial election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915; and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516.

Special notes...

If the other party fails to respond to your **petition** within the time limit stated in the notice of action that is published or posted, you are entitled to request a **default**. (See **Motion for Default**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.922(a), and **Default**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.922(b).)

Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900 (a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____

Division: _____

Petitioner,

and

Respondent,

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (NO CHILD OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT)

TO: *{name of Respondent}* _____
{Respondent's last known address} _____

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for dissolution of marriage has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on *{name of Petitioner}*

_____,
whose address is _____
on or before *{date}* _____, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at *{clerk's address}*

before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. **If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.**

The action is asking the court to decide how the following real or personal property should be divided:
{insert "none" or, if applicable, the legal description of real property, a specific description of personal property, and the name of the county in Florida where the property is located}

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the address(es) on record at the clerk's office.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

Dated: _____

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:

[fill in **all** blanks] This form was prepared for the Petitioner.

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual}, _____,

{name of business} _____,

{address} _____,

{city} _____, {state} _____, {zip code} _____, {telephone number} _____.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA FAMILY LAW RULES OF PROCEDURE
FORM 12.913(b)
AFFIDAVIT OF DILIGENT SEARCH AND INQUIRY
(10/21)**

When should this form be used?

This form is to be used with **Notice of Action for Dissolution of Marriage (No Child or Financial Support)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.913(a)(1) and **Notice of Action For Family Cases With Minor Child(ren)**, Form 12.913(a)(2), to obtain constructive service (also called service by publication).

The other party is entitled to actual notice of the proceedings when possible. When it is necessary to use constructive notice, it must be given in a way that is likely to provide actual notice. You must disclose the last known address of the other party. A last known address cannot be unknown. This form includes a checklist of places you can look for information on the location of the other party. While you do not have to look in all of these places, the court must believe that you have made a very serious effort to get information about the other party's location and that you have followed up on any information you received.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. After completing this form, you should sign the form. You should file this document and a **Notice of Action for Dissolution of Marriage (No Child or Financial Support)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.913(a)(1), or **Notice of Action For Family Cases With Minor Child(ren)**, Form 12.913(a)(2), with the clerk of the circuit court in the county where your petition is filed. You should keep a copy for your records.

What should I do next?

A copy of this form must be filed with the court and served on the other party or his or her attorney. The copy you are serving to the other party must be either mailed, e-mailed, or hand-delivered to the opposing party or his or her attorney on the same day indicated on the certificate of service. If it is mailed, it must be postmarked on the date indicated in the certificate of service. Service must be in accordance with Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-FILING

The Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration now require that all petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file petitions or other pleadings or documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your pleadings or other documents electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the judicial circuit in which you file. The rules and procedures should be carefully read and followed.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-SERVICE ELECTION

After the initial service of process of the petition or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in certain circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration.** If you elect to participate in electronic service, which means serving or receiving pleadings by electronic mail (e-mail), or through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, you must review Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at www.flcourts.org through the link to the Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MAY SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO. If a self-represented litigant elects to serve and receive documents by email, the procedures must always be followed once the initial election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General), Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915;** and Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516.

Where can I look for more information?

Before proceeding, you should read “General Information for Self-Represented Litigants” found at the beginning of these forms. For further information, see rule 12.070, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure and chapter 49, Florida Statutes.

Special notes . . .

Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900(a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____

Division: _____

Petitioner,

and

Respondent.

AFFIDAVIT OF DILIGENT SEARCH AND INQUIRY

I, {full legal name} _____, being sworn, certify that the following information is true:

1. I have made diligent search and inquiry to discover the name and current residence of Respondent: {Specify details of search} **Refer to checklist below and identify all actions taken (any additional information included such as the date the action was taken and the person with whom you spoke is helpful) (attach additional sheet if necessary):**
[Check all that apply]

- _____ United States Post Office inquiry through Freedom of Information Act for current address or any relocations.
- _____ Last known employment of Respondent, including name and address of employer. You should also ask for any addresses to which W-2 Forms were mailed, and, if a pension or profit-sharing plan exists, then for any addresses to which any pension or plan payment is and/or has been mailed.
- _____ Unions from which Respondent may have worked or that governed his or her particular trade or craft.
- _____ Regulatory agencies, including professional or occupational licensing.
- _____ Names and addresses of relatives and contacts with those relatives, and inquiry as to Respondent's last known address. You are to follow up any leads of any addresses where Respondent may have moved. Relatives include, but are not limited to: parents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, grandparents, great-grandparents, former in-laws, stepparents, stepchildren.
- _____ Information about the Respondent's possible death and, if dead, the date and location of the death.
- _____ Telephone listings in the last known locations of Respondent's residence.
- _____ Internet at <http://www.switchboard.com> or other Internet databank locator service. Please indicate if a public library assisted you in your search.
- _____ Law enforcement arrest and/or criminal records in the last known residential area of Respondent.
- _____ Highway Patrol records in the state of Respondent's last known address.
- _____ Department of Motor Vehicle records in the state of Respondent's last known address.

- _____ Department of Corrections records in the state of Respondent's last known address.
- _____ Title IV-D (child support enforcement) agency records in the state of Respondent's last known address.
- _____ Hospitals in the last known area of Respondent's residence.
- _____ Utility companies, which include water, sewer, cable TV, and electric, in the last known area of Respondent's residence.
- _____ Letters to the Armed Forces of the U.S. and their response as to whether or not there is any information about Respondent. (See Memorandum for Certificate of Military Service, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.912(a).)
- _____ Tax Assessor's and Tax Collector's Office in the area where Respondent last resided.
- _____ Other: *{explain}* _____

2. The age of Respondent is [Choose only **one**] () known *{enter age}* _____ or () unknown.

3. **Respondent's current residence**

[Choose only **one**]

- a. _____ Respondent's current residence is unknown to me.
- b. _____ Respondent's current residence is in some state or country other than Florida.

- c. _____ The Respondent, having residence in Florida, has been absent from Florida for more than 60 days prior to the date of this affidavit, or conceals him/her self so that process cannot be served personally upon him or her, and I believe there is no person in the state upon whom service of process would bind this absent or concealed Respondent.

4. **Respondent's last known address** as of *{date}* _____, was:
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone No. _____ Fax No. _____.

Respondent's last known employment, as of *{date}* _____, was
Name of Employer _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone No. _____ Fax No. _____.

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read this document and the facts stated in it are true.

Dated: _____

Signature of Petitioner

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-mail Address(es): _____

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:

[fill in **all** blanks]

This form was prepared for: *{choose only one}* _____ Petitioner _____ Respondent

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual} _____,

{name of business} _____,

{address} _____,

{city} _____, *{state}* _____, *{zip code}* _____, *{telephone number}* _____.

LIST OF CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

“THE LIST OF 22”

1. **DEPENDENCY** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(i)): Includes termination of parental rights, guardians ad litem, child abuse, neglect, and abandonment Access: Child, parents, attorney for child, court-appointed guardians, SAO, law enforcement, DCF.
2. **ADOPTION FILES** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(ii)), FS 63.162: Provide access in accordance with the Matrix, which is part of the Florida Supreme Court AO and is, therefore, a court order that complies with the statute limiting access without a court order. This applies to open cases. On closed cases, a court order is required to view records as the attorney of record is automatically dismissed 30 days after it is closed.
3. **SSN, BANK ACCT, CHARGE, DEBIT & CREDIT CARD #s** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(iii)): Access: Parties, attorneys of record.
4. **HIV** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(iv)): Includes test results and ID of any person upon whom an HIV test has been performed. Access: Test subject and his/her attorney ONLY. Any other parties cannot see HIV test results.
5. **SEXUALLY TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(v)): Records including test results held by DOH or its authorized representatives. Access: Test subject, attorneys of record, medical/state agencies in medical emergencies for benefit of law enforcement, firefighters etc.
6. **BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(vi)): Birth and portions of death and fetal death records. ACCESS: Parties, attorneys of record.
7. **PREGNANCY TERMINATION BY MINOR** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(vii)): Information that can be used to identify a minor petitioning for a waiver of parental notice when seeking to terminate pregnancy. Access: Petitioner, petitioner’s attorney. Parents of petitioner ARE NOT allowed access!
8. **BAKER ACT RECORDS** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(viii)): Clinical records in Baker Act cases. Access: Patient, patient's attorney, patient’s court-appointed guardian or court-appointed guardian advocate, SAO.
9. **SUBSTANCE ABUSE RECORDS** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(ix)): Records of substance abuse providers that pertain to the identity, diagnosis, and prognosis of and service provision to individuals. Access: Patient, attorney of record, medical personnel in medical emergencies.
10. **CLINICAL RECORDS** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(x)): For Defendant in criminal case found incompetent to proceed or acquitted by reason of insanity. Access: Patient, patient’s court-appointed legal guardian, patient’s attorney, law enforcement, SAO, defense attorneys of record, judges, jail personnel, community services re follow up care.
11. **ESTATE INVENTORIES AND ACCOUNTINGS** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(xi)): Access: Court-appointed personal representatives and their attorneys and other attorneys of record.
12. **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(xii)): Victim’s address upon request by victim/petitioner. Access: Petitioner and petitioner’s attorney only. Respondent is not to have access even though he/she is a party!
13. **CHILD ABUSE & SEXUAL OFFENSES** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(xiii)): Victim Identification information. Sexual Offenses include Sexual Battery (FS 794), Lewdness, Indecent Exposure (FS 800), Child Abuse, Aggravated Child Abuse (FS 827), Sexual Performance by a Child, Obscenity (FS 847). Information to be redacted (ADULT & MINOR Victims): Photograph, Name, Home and/or Employment Address, Home and/or Employment Phone Numbers. In addition, MINOR VICTIMS of sexual offenses are entitled to have the following redacted: Videotapes of the victim,

School, Church, Place of Employment Addresses and Telephone Numbers. Access: Parties, attorneys of record, SAO, law enforcement.

14. **GESTATIONAL SURROGACY** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(xiv)): Access: Parties, attorneys of record.
15. **GUARDIANSHIP** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(xv)): Reports and orders appointing Court Monitors. Access: Guardianship reports: To court-appointed guardian and guardian's attorney of record, ward (unless a minor or incapacitated) and ward's attorney. Orders appointing Court Monitors and orders relating to findings of no probable cause in GA cases: Only by court order.
16. **GRAND JURY RECORDS** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(xvi)): Access: Only by court order. Also see, [Informal AGO issued on September 8, 1995](#), determining that the names and addresses of grand jurors are privileged as part of the record of the grand jury proceedings.
17. **FAMILY SERVICES FOR CHILDREN (CINS/FINS cases)** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(xvii)): Access: Parties, attorneys of record.
18. **JUVENILE DELINQUENCY** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(xviii)): Access: Parties, attorneys of record, SAO, military representative with an original signed waiver of the defendant (always make a copy of the waiver for the file.) This includes protecting sexting violations by minors under FS 847.0141(1), which require a "promise to appear before the juvenile court," per 985.0301, which adds noncriminal violations assigned to juvenile court by law to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. If these cases are not filed in the Juvenile division, then they will need to be identified and separately protected.
19. **TUBERCULOSIS** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(xix)): Records disclosing the identity of persons subject to tuberculosis proceedings and records held by DOH or its authorized representatives relating to know or suspected cases of tuberculosis or exposure. Access: NO ONE has access without a court order. Access can be given by Court Order to those not allowed access by statute. In that case, identify the Court Order, check ID for that person and make a copy of the person's ID for the file before allowing access.
20. **PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATION REPORTS (PSIs)** (2.420(d)(1)(B)(xx)): Complete PSI reports. Access: Sentencing Court, SAO, defendant, and defendant's attorney. Fla. R. Crim. Proc. 3.712 also allows viewing to persons or agencies having a legitimate interest in the information in the PSI, which could include a probation officer. Requests made under this provision will need to be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
21. **FORENSIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EVALUATIONS** under FS 916.1065, for defendants charged with felony and found to be incompetent to proceed, including competency, substance abuse, psychosexual, psychological, psychiatric, psychosocial, cognitive impairment, sanity, or other mental health evaluation individual. Access: Parties, attorneys of record.
22. **DRUG COURT REPORTS**, including reports regarding eligibility screening, substance abuse screening, behavioral health evaluations, and treatment status reports for defendants referred to or considered for referral to a drug court program. FS 397.334(10)(a). Access: Parties, attorneys of record.

DOCUMENTS PROTECTED IN RULE 2.420(c)(6)

Rule 2.420(d)(1) protects information in (d)(1)(B), which is the list of 22, but also protects information in (d)(1)(A), which includes the records in 2.420(c)(1)-(6). The records in (c)(1)-(5) are primarily records in the hands of court administration or individual judges, such as judge's notes on a file. However, clerks hold search warrants and arrest warrants covered in 2.420(c)(6). Rule 2.420(b)(4) allows confidential information released to those designated by law, statute, or court order.

1. **Arrest Warrants** are confidential until executed or until law enforcement determines they cannot be executed. Access: state attorney (authorized to view confidential information per

Access Security Matrix) and bail bond agents (FS 903.26(2)(c) requires clerk to provide certified copy of warrant to bail bond agent if there is a bond forfeiture).

2. **Search Warrants** are confidential until executed or until law enforcement determines they cannot be executed.

DOCUMENTS PROTECTED BY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

3. Criminal History Records, which are filed in Name Change and Guardianship cases.
4. Driver information received from DHSMV that is protected by the DPPA: the driver identification number (driver's license number), address, telephone number, and medical or disability information. Information related to vehicular crashes, driving violations, driver's status, or vehicle ownership or liens are not protected. The MOU protects information DHSMV is required to protect by statute.
 - a. FS 119.0712 protects any record that pertains to a motor vehicle operator's permit, motor vehicle title, motor vehicle registration or identification card issued by DHSMV.
 - b. FS 316.066 protects crash reports that reveal the identity, home or employment telephone number or home or employment address of, or other personal information concerning the parties involved in the crash for 60 days after the referenced crash.
 - c. Information from DHSMV records that is used to create new documents does not remain confidential. AGO 2010-10. For example, the clerk can obtain vehicle ownership information from DHSMF and generate as a notice to lienholders or non-defendant owners of a vehicle being impounded due to a DUI conviction. The notice and the name and address on the notice are not confidential information.
 - d. A driver license filed in a court case by parties or other persons is not subject to the MOU, because it is not information received from DHSMV, so it is not confidential.
 - e. A traffic citation filed in a case is not confidential, even though it contains information that would otherwise be protected if received from DHSMV, because our office did not receive it from DHSMV.

DOCUMENTS SEALED BY COURT ORDER

1. Examples of documents required to be sealed
 - a. Wire applications, FS 934.098(8)(c) (court required to seal)
 - b. Jimmy Ryce reports, FS 394.921(2)(shall be sealed)
2. Examples of documents courts may seal or restrict viewing
 - a. Photo, video, audio of killing, FS 406.135(7) & (8) (criminal proceeding exempt, but court may restrict disclosure)
 - b. Photo, video, audio of killing of law enforcement, FS 406.136(c) (criminal proceeding exempt, but court may restrict disclosure)

OTHER DOCUMENTS NOT PROTECTED BY LIST OF 22

1. Attorney Fee Contingency Contracts under R. Reg. Fla Bar 4-1.5(f)(4). This is not Type I information identified in the List of 22. The rule allows the party to ask the court to seal the documents. The attorneys ordinarily include in the motion a request to have both the motion and order sealed.
2. Criminal investigative information under 119.071(2)(c). This is not Type I information identified in the List of 22.
3. Federal Tax Returns, FS 192.105(1), 26 USC 6103. This is not Type I information identified in the List of 22. Since clerks have not obtained federal tax information pursuant to 26 USC 6103,

which regulates entities such as federal or state agencies who obtain these records as part of their official duties (e.g., IRS tax agents) or are officers of companies or are shareholders who are entitled to receive copies of such returns (financial officers, etc.). The statutes do not apply to people who voluntarily file their returns or file tax information. Some clerks have this docket code set to VOR to ensure confidential exemptions required by Rule 2.420(d) are redacted as tax returns may have SSNs and bank account numbers.

4. Fingerprints, FS 119.071(5)(g). This is not Type I information identified in the List of 22. See Fred Baggett Memo of July 26, 2006, at the end of the exhibit, which determines that this statutory provision does not apply to court records, since only the court can regulate its own records.
5. Guardian ad litem reports not filed in chapter 39 cases—there no authority to protect these.
6. Hospital Records, FS 395.3025(4)(5)(7)(8). Statute applies to “any licensed facility,” not clerks handling court cases. These are patient records in the hands of the hospital, provisions allow the hospitals to turn records over to DCF, DOH, etc., and, again, has no applicability to such records filed in a court case. It is be up to the filer to ask the court to determine that records are confidential. [Trying to protect such records is a heavy burden on clerks to read each document to see if it is a medical record that is from a hospital and should be protected.]
7. Juror Notes. These are written notes taken by jurors during civil or criminal trials and are considered administrative records of the judicial branch, rather than court records, per the Judicial Branch Records Retention Schedule for Administrative Records in the Appendix to the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration. Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.430(k) provides that, at the conclusion of the trial and promptly following discharge of the jury, the court shall collect all juror notes and immediately destroy them. The Retention Schedule similarly provides that juror notes are to be immediately destroyed upon the issuance of a verdict or if the trial ends prematurely as a result of a mistrial, plea, or settlement. Fla. Stat. 40.50(2) also contemplates that, after a civil jury has rendered its verdict, juror notes are to be collected by the bailiff or the clerk and promptly destroyed. If, despite the foregoing, a court does not destroy juror notes or allow their destruction, it is recommended that the clerk’s office discuss the foregoing with the court and explain that, while juror notes are confidential records of the judicial branch, see Fla. Stat. 40.50(2), they are not technically court records, much less the type of court records that the clerk is required to designate and maintain as confidential pursuant to Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.420(d)(1)(B) (i.e., the “List of 22”). Thus, if a court insists that they be made part of a court file and the court does not want them to be made public, the court will need to order that they either be sealed or kept confidential for the clerk to maintain them as either sealed or confidential.
8. Juror Questions. Fla. Stat. 40.50(4) requires the court in civil cases to instruct the jury that any questions directed to witnesses or the court must be in writing, unsigned, and given to the bailiff. If the court determines that the question calls for admissible evidence, the question may be asked by the court or counsel in the court’s discretion. If the court determines the question calls for inadmissible evidence, the question may not be read or answered. Written juror questions are not referenced in either the Judicial Branch Records Retention Schedule for Administrative Records or Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.420, and it is not clear from FS 40.50(4) what is to be done with written juror questions once they have been reviewed by the court. In the absence of any such directive or guidance, it is recommended that, if a court does not destroy the written juror questions and routes them to the clerk’s office for keeping, then discuss with the court the fact that, irrespective of whether they are court records, written juror questions are not among the types of court records that the clerk is required to designate and maintain as confidential pursuant to Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.420(d)(1)(B) (i.e., the “List of 22”). Thus, if a court wants them to be made part of a court file and does not want them to be made public, the court

will need to order that they either be sealed or kept confidential for the clerk to maintain them as either sealed or confidential.

9. Mediation reports, FS 44.102(3). This is not Type I information identified in the List of 22. A mediation report is not a “written communication in a mediation proceeding.” A mediation report is either a report that the case did not settle or is a settlement agreement that is not confidential. The mediator or the parties keep any other mediation communications (pre-settlement discussions or papers that might include some admissions or damaging information) that were used in the mediation process and do not file them.
10. Medical records. Not on the List of 22. HIPAA does not apply to court records.
11. Paternity DNA test results, FS 760.40(2)(a). Paternity DNA test results are not Type I information identified in the List of 22. Regardless of how the statute is interpreted, since every exemption statute was considered by the rules committee recommending the 2.420 list and this did not make it on the list, clerks cannot automatically seal these records, as this determination is reserved for the court. However, if a paternity DNA test was recorded in the Official Record, a request for removal should be accommodated. Note that the statute itself exempts results in criminal prosecution and paternity cases by using “AND” to both allow consent to testing and make the results public, which explains why the committee did not add it to the “List.”
12. Photo, video audio of autopsy, FS 406.135(7) & (8). This is not Type I information identified in the List of 22. Per the statute, this exemption applies to records held by a medical examiner. In addition, these records are not exempt in criminal proceedings, but the court may restrict disclosure.
13. Photo, video audio of killing of law enforcement, FS 406.136(c). This is not Type I information identified in the List of 22. Per the statute, these are not exempt in criminal proceedings, but the court may restrict disclosure.
14. Nurse (Identity) Disciplinary Records – FS 464.018(1)(j). This is not Type I information identified in the List of 22. This statute requires the department to identify the respondent by initials in any public court records or documents, and it would be up to the department to make sure the proceedings are closed to the public, this is between the court and the department, not the clerk.
15. 2017 LEGISLATION:
 - a. Witness to a murder: Information that reveals the identity of a witness to a murder is confidential for two years after the date on which the murder is observed by the witness, but may be disclosed by a criminal justice agency. HB 111.
 - b. DV Injunction Petitions: On or after July 1, 2017, a petition for injunction for domestic violence, repeat violence, dating violence, sexual violence, stalking, or cyberstalking is confidential, if the petition is dismissed or denied (?). A respondent may request that a petition be made confidential if the dismissal happened before July 1, 2017. HB 239..
 - c. Marchman Act: Pleadings and other documents, and the images of all pleadings and other documents, in court involved involuntary admissions proceedings under the Marchman Act confidential. HB 791.

IN THE COUNTY/CIRCUIT COURT, _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____, FLORIDA

Plaintiff/Petitioner,

v.

Case #: _____

Defendant/Respondent.

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION WITHIN COURT FILING

Pursuant to Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.420(d)(2), I hereby certify that:

____ 1. I am filing herewith a document containing confidential information as described in Rule 2.420(d)(1)(B) and:

a. The title/type of document is: _____; **and**

b. _____ The entire document is confidential, **OR** _____ the confidential
information within the document is precisely located at: _____

OR

____ 2. A document was previously filed in this case that contains confidential information as described in Rule 2.420(d)(1)(B), but a Notice of Confidential Information within Court Filing was not filed with the document and the confidential information was not maintained as confidential by the Clerk. I hereby notify the Clerk that this confidential information is located as follows:

a. Title/type of document: _____

b. Date of filing (if known): _____

c. Date of document: _____

d. Docket entry number: _____

e. _____ Entire document is confidential, OR _____ Precise location of confidential information in document: _____

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing was furnished by email/delivery/mail/fax
to: _____, on _____.

Signature

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Florida Bar #, if applicable: _____

Email address: _____

Note: The clerk of court shall review filings identified as containing confidential information to determine whether the information is facially subject to confidentiality under subdivision (d)(1)(B). The clerk shall notify the filer in writing within 5 days if the clerk determines that the information is NOT subject to confidentiality, and the records shall not be held as confidential for more than 10 days, unless a motion is filed pursuant to subdivision (d)(3) of Rule 2.420.

IN THE COUNTY/CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Plaintiff,

v.

Case #: _____

Defendant.

MOTION TO DETERMINE THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF TRIAL COURT RECORDS

The undersigned, by and through his/her attorney, moves the Court pursuant to Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.420 for an order determining the confidentiality of court records.

a. The undersigned's attorney has given written notice of the subject motion to all affected non-parties _____, and filed copies of the notice provided. The notice identified this case by docket number; described the confidential information with as much specificity as possible without revealing the confidential information, including the "precise location" of the information in the file/record; and advised that if the motion is denied by the court then the subject material will not be treated as confidential by the Clerk.

b. The particular court records or portion of a record that the movant seeks to have determined as confidential are:

c. The movant seeks an order sealing the following information relative to this case: *[select all that apply]*

- ☐ the party's name on the progress docket.
☐ particular documents within the court file, specifically _____
☐ the entire court file, but not the progress docket.
☐ the entire court file and the progress docket.

d. The legal basis for determining the court records to be confidential is: _____

e. The specific legal authority and applicable legal standards for determining such court records to be confidential are: _____

f. *[For rule 2.420(c)(9) motions]* Confidentiality of _____ is required to protect the following interest(s): *[select any/all that apply]*

- ☐ 1. Preventing a serious and imminent threat to the fair, impartial, and orderly administration of justice, specifically: _____
☐ 2. A trade secret.
☐ 3. A compelling government interest, specifically: _____
☐ 4. Obtaining evidence to determine the legal issues in a case;
☐ 5. Avoiding substantial injury to innocent third parties, specifically: _____

☐ 6. Avoiding substantial injury to a party by the disclosure of matters protected by a common law or privacy right not generally inherent in this type of proceeding, specifically: _____

☐ 7. Complying with established public policy set forth in the Florida or United States Constitution or statutes or Florida rules or case law, specifically: _____

g. There is no less restrictive measure available to protect this/these interest(s), and the degree, duration and manner of confidentiality ordered herein are no broader than necessary to protect the interest(s).

Wherefore, the undersigned **REQUESTS** that:

The Court _____ this motion for a hearing.

The Court finds that _____ documents are confidential and for the Court to seal the following materials related to this matter and to keep such materials from public access: *[select all that apply]*

☐ 1. The party's name on the progress docket and in the case style. On the public progress docket, the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall substitute the following for the party's name: _____
Further, the Clerk shall ensure that the party's name is redacted from all public materials in the file and that the final judgment is recorded in a manner that does not reveal the identity of the party. However, the progress docket and the file shall otherwise remain available to the public.

☐ 2. The following documents within the court file: _____
However, the file and progress docket shall otherwise remain available to the public subject to any substitution of a party's name set forth above.

☐ 3. The entire court file. However, the progress docket shall remain open to the public subject to any substitution of a party's name set forth above.

☐ 4. The entire court file and the progress docket. The progress docket shall not be available on any public information system. However, the case number shall remain public.

I certify that this motion is made in good faith and is supported by a sound factual and legal basis.

Submitted and filed on _____.

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing was furnished by e-mail/U.S. Mail/personal service on _____ to: _____

Party/Attorney's Signature

Attorney Name.....

Florida Bar No.

Address

Phone

E-mail

IN THE COUNTY/CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

_____,
Plaintiff,

v.

Case #: _____

_____,
Defendant.

**ORDER ON MOTION TO DETERMINE TRIAL COURT RECORDS CONFIDENTIAL
PURSUANT TO FLORIDA RULE OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION 2.420(C)(9)**

THIS MATTER is before the Court on the Motion to Determine Trial Court Records Confidential filed by _____ pursuant to rule 2.420(c)(9), Florida Rule of Judicial Administration. _____ seeks an order sealing the following information relative to this case: *[select all that apply]*

- ☐ the party's name on the progress docket.
☐ particular documents within the court file, specifically _____

☐ the entire court file, but not the progress docket.
☐ the entire court file and the progress docket.

This motion _____ contested and a hearing _____ conducted.

Having considered the arguments of the parties, legal authority, and otherwise being fully advised, the Court **DENIES** the motion because the moving party has failed to establish that confidentiality of the information sought to be sealed is necessary to protect any interest under Rule 2.420(c).

– OR –

The Court **GRANTS** the motion as follows:

1. Confidentiality of the [information sought to be sealed] is required to protect the following interest(s): *[select any/all that apply]*

- ☐ a. Preventing a serious and imminent threat to the fair, impartial, and orderly administration of justice, specifically: _____
☐ b. A trade secret.
☐ c. A compelling government interest, specifically: _____
☐ d. Obtaining evidence to determine the legal issues in a case;
☐ e. Avoiding substantial injury to innocent third parties, specifically: _____

☐ f. Avoiding substantial injury to a party by the disclosure of matters protected by a common law or privacy right not generally inherent in this type of proceeding, specifically: _____

☐ g. Complying with established public policy set forth in the Florida or United States Constitution or statutes or Florida rules or case law, specifically: _____

2. The Court further finds that no less restrictive measure is available to protect this/these interest(s), and that the degree, duration and manner of confidentiality ordered herein are no broader than necessary to protect the interest(s).

Wherefore, it is **ORDERED** that:

The Clerk of the Circuit Court is hereby directed to seal immediately the following materials related to this matter and to keep such materials from public access: *[select all that apply]*

- ☐ 1. The party's name on the progress docket and in the case style. On the public progress docket, the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall substitute the following for the party's name: _____ . Further, the Clerk shall ensure that the party's name is redacted from all public materials in the file and that the final judgment is recorded in a manner that does not reveal the identity of the party. However, the progress docket and the file shall otherwise remain available to the public.
- ☐ 2. The following documents within the court file: _____ . However, the file and progress docket shall otherwise remain available to the public subject to any substitution of a party's name set forth above.
- ☐ 3. The entire court file. However, the progress docket shall remain open to the public subject to any substitution of a party's name set forth above.
- ☐ 4. The entire court file and the progress docket. The progress docket shall not be available on any public information system. However, the case number shall remain public.

It is further **ORDERED** that any materials sealed pursuant to this Order shall be conditionally disclosed upon the entry of a further order by this Court finding that such opening is necessary for purposes of judicial or governmental accountability or First Amendment rights.

It is further **ORDERED** that any materials sealed pursuant to this Order may otherwise be disclosed only as follows:

- A. to any judge of this Circuit for case-related reasons;
- B. to the Chief Judge or his or her designee;
- C. to adult parties or their attorneys of record; or
- D. by further order of the Court.

It is further **ORDERED** that, within 10 days of the date of this Order, the Clerk shall post a copy of this Order on the bulletin board of the Leon County Clerk's Office and the Clerk's website for a period of 30 days to provide public notice.

It is further **ORDERED** that the Clerk is hereby authorized to unseal any materials sealed pursuant to this Order for the purpose of filing, microfilming or imaging files, or transmitting a record to an appellate tribunal. The materials shall be resealed immediately upon completion of the filing.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, at Leon County, Florida, on _____.

County/Circuit Judge

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing was furnished by e-mail/U.S. Mail/personal service to: _____ on _____.

Judicial Assistant

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA

Petitioner,
vs.

CASE NO.:
DIVISION:

Respondent.
_____ /

**DESIGNATION OF E-MAIL ADDRESS BY A PARTY NOT
REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY**

Pursuant to Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516(b)(1)(c),
I, _____, designate the e-mail address(es) below for electronic
service of all documents related to this case.

By completing this form, I am authorizing the court, clerk of court, and all parties to send
copies of notices, orders, judgments, motions, pleadings, or other written communications to me
by e-mail through the Florida Courts E-filing Portal.

I understand that I must keep the clerk's office and the opposing party or parties notified
of my current e-mail address(es) and that all copies of notices, orders, judgments, motions,
pleadings, or other written communications in this case will be served at the e-mail address(es) on
record at the clerk's office.

(Designated e-mail address)

(Secondary designated e-mail address(es), if any)

(Certificate of Service on the following page)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy hereof has been furnished by _____ E-mail _____ U.S.
mail _____ Hand-delivered to the Clay County Clerk of Courts and
_____,
(Other parties name/address)
this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Signature

Printed name

E-mail address

Address

Phone number