

### **Rule 3. Commencing an Action and Enforcement of Child Support Orders**

(a) IN GENERAL. The following parentage and support actions under D.C. Code § 11-1101 (2012 Repl.) are commenced by filing a petition or counterclaim with the court:

- (1) proceedings to determine parentage of any child;
- (2) actions for support of minor children;
- (3) actions to enforce child support orders; and
- (4) proceedings for reciprocal or interstate support under D.C. Code §§ 46-351.01 to -359.03 (2018 Supp.).

(b) CONTENTS OF PARENTAGE PETITION. A petition to commence a parentage proceeding under D.C. Code § 11-1101 (a)(11) (2012 Repl.) must set forth the jurisdiction of the court and all relevant information concerning the allegation of parentage, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) the relationship of the petitioner to the child(ren);
- (2) the date and place of birth of the children;
- (3) the alleged natural father of the child(ren); and
- (4) other requests for relief.

(c) CONTENTS OF SUPPORT PETITION. A petition to commence a support proceeding under D.C. Code § 11-1101 (a)(3) (2012 Repl.) must set forth the jurisdiction of the court and relevant information concerning the petition for support, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) the relationship of the petitioner to the child(ren);
- (2) the date and place of birth of the children;
- (3) facts concerning parentage; and
- (4) other requests for relief.

(d) ACTIONS TO REGISTER AN ORDER FOR ENFORCEMENT AND/OR MODIFICATION FROM ANOTHER JURISDICTION. Proceedings to register an order from another jurisdiction for enforcement and/or modification under D.C. Code §§ 46-356.01 to -.16 (2018 Supp.) are commenced by filing a certified copy of the order to be registered and any other supporting documentation required by statute.

#### **COMMENT**

Parentage and support cases may be initiated by petition in the Parentage and Support Branch or by complaint in the Domestic Relations Branch. If parentage or child support is the only issue to be resolved, the case must be filed by petition in the Parentage and Support Branch. See Comment (f) to General Family Rule A. This rule applies only to actions in the Parentage and Support Branch. If a separate case is filed in the Domestic Relations Branch, a related P&S matter may be consolidated in the Domestic Relations Branch with that case. See D.C. Code § 11-1104 (a), (b)(2)(B) (2012 Repl.); Domestic Relations Rule 42(a).