

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FAMILY COURT
Domestic Relations Branch**

PRINT PLAINTIFF'S NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE

PLAINTIFF,
v.

DRB _____

JUDGE: _____

PRINT YOUR NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE

☐ SUBSTITUTE ADDRESS: CHECK BOX IF YOU
HAVE WRITTEN SOMEONE ELSE'S ADDRESS BECAUSE
YOU FEAR HARASSMENT OR HARM.

PRINT OTHER DEFENDANT'S NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE

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YOU FEAR HARASSMENT OR HARM.

DEFENDANT.

DEFENDANT #2.

**CONTESTED ANSWER TO
COMPLAINT FOR CUSTODY AND/OR VISITATION**

AND

**COUNTERCLAIM FOR CUSTODY and/or VISITATION
Action Involving Child Support ☐ yes ☐ no**

I, _____, am the Defendant in this case.
PRINT YOUR NAME

1. The child(ren) in this case:

Child's Full Name	Date of Birth	Gender

2. My relationship to the child(ren) in this case: [CHECK ONE]

☒ I am the biological or adoptive parent.

☒ I am the caretaker. My relationship to the child(ren) is: (e.g. grandparent, brother, aunt, etc.).

☐ Other : _____.

3. The other party's relationship to the child(ren) in this case: [CHECK ONE]

☐ The other party is the biological or adoptive parent.

☐ The other party is the caretaker. His/Her relationship to the child(ren) is _____ (e.g. grandparent, brother, aunt, etc.).

☐ Other _____.

4. The Plaintiff stated that this court was the proper place to decide the custody issues in this case and: [CHECK ONE]

☐ I agree with that.

☐ I disagree with that. This court is not the proper place to decide the custody issues in this case because

5. The minor child(ren) currently live(s) at the following address(es) with the following person(s):

Child(ren)'s Name(s)	Current Address	Since What Date	Child(ren) Live(s) With (names)

6. Over the last five years, the child(ren) have lived in the following places, with the following persons:

Child(ren)'s Name(s)	Previous Address	During What Dates	Child(ren) Lived With (name and current address)

7. The following people, who are not parties to this case, have physical custody of, or claim rights of legal or physical custody of, or visitation with the child(ren):

Name(s)	Current Address(es)

8. ☐ I was ☐ I was not a party or witness or participant of any kind in any other proceeding concerning the custody of or visitation with the child(ren).

9. **Legal Custody.** I am a fit and proper person to have legal custody of the minor child(ren) and make decisions about their well-being, and I believe that it is in the best interest of the minor child(ren) that I be awarded: [CHECK ONE]

☐ joint legal custody

☐ sole legal custody

10. **Physical Custody.** I am a fit and proper person to have physical custody of the minor child(ren) and to have responsibility and control of the child(ren), and I believe that it is in the best interest of the minor child(ren) that I be awarded: [CHECK ONE]

☐ joint physical custody

☐ sole physical custody

☐ visitation

11. **The presumption in favor of joint custody does not apply in *this* case because:**
[CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]

☐ There has been domestic violence.

☐ There has been child abuse.

☐ There has been child neglect.

☐ There has been parental kidnapping.

AND/OR

☐ Joint custody is not in the best interest of the child(ren).

12. **I state the following about visitation:** [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]

☐ We can work out a visitation schedule on our own.

☐ We need a specific schedule of visitation.

☐ Any visitation should be supervised because

☐ The other party should not receive any visitation because

13. **I state the following about child support:** [CHECK ONE]

☐ I am ☐ I am not seeking child support on behalf of the child(ren).

15. I do ☐ / do *not* ☐ know of any proceedings in the District of Columbia or in any state or territory involving the same claim or subject matter as this case. Please list state, court, and docket number for cases involving the same claim or subject matter.

Court	Case Number	Case Type

Request for Relief

I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST that the Court: [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]

☐ Deny the other party's request for custody and/or visitation.

☐ Grant me: ☐ sole

PHYSICAL CUSTODY

☐ joint

☐ Grant me: ☐ sole

LEGAL CUSTODY

☐ joint

☐ Allow _____ to visit with the child(ren).
NAME

☐ Allow only supervised visitation.

☐ Allow no visitation.

☐ Award child support according to the Child Support Guideline of the District of Columbia and other applicable laws, including: [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]

☐ current child support (support starting today and continuing into the future)

☐ retroactive child support (support for time before today)

☐ health insurance

☐ Hold a hearing on my request for child support within 45 days of filing and issue a Notice of Hearing and Order Directing Appearance ("NOHODA") to the other party with the date and time of the hearing.

☐ Note that we have a written agreement. I request that the Court: [CHECK ONE]

☐ *include* our written agreement as a part of its order.

☐ not include our written agreement as a part of its order.

I ALSO REQUEST that the Court award any other relief it considers fair and proper.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

If this document is to be signed outside the geographic boundaries of the United States, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, additional requirements must be met prior to signing. See Super. Ct. Dom. Rel. R. 2(c)(1)(B).

SIGN YOUR NAME

DATE

PRINT YOUR NAME

PHONE NUMBER

HOME ADDRESS 1

EMAIL ADDRESS

HOME ADDRESS 2

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_____ DRB _____

PLAINTIFF,

JUDGE: _____

v.

PRINT DEFENDANT'S NAME

DEFENDANT.

**RULE 5
PROOF OF SERVICE FORM**

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SERVED THE OTHER PARTY WITH A COPY OF YOUR PAPERS, YOU CAN FILL OUT AND FILE THIS PROOF OF SERVICE FORM AT THE SAME TIME THAT YOU FILE YOUR PAPERS.

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY SERVED THE OTHER PARTY WITH A COPY OF YOUR PAPERS, YOU MUST FILL OUT AND FILE THIS PROOF OF SERVICE FORM AFTER YOU SERVE THE OTHER PARTY.

IF THE OTHER PARTY HAS A LAWYER IN THIS CASE, YOU MUST SERVE A COPY OF THE PAPERS TO THE LAWYER. IF THE OTHER PARTY DOES NOT HAVE A LAWYER, A COPY OF THE PAPERS SHOULD BE SERVED DIRECTLY TO THE OTHER PARTY.

1. I certify that on _____ I served copies of _____ to:

DATE OF SERVICE

NAME(S) OF PLEADING(S)

☐ the other party, _____ **or**
NAME OF OTHER PARTY

☐ the other party's attorney, _____, who represents _____.
NAME OF ATTORNEY NAME OF OTHER PARTY

2. I delivered copies of the papers by: [CHECK ONE]

☐ **handing them to the other party.**

☐ **sending them to the other party by first class mail** to the other party's last known address:

ADDRESS WHERE THE PAPERS WERE SENT

☐ **leaving them with a person of suitable age and discretion** who lived with the other party at:

ADDRESS OR DESCRIPTION OF PLACE WHERE PAPERS WERE SERVED

This place is the other party's ☐ TEMPORARY RESIDENCE.

☐ PERMANENT RESIDENCE.

☐ OTHER: _____.

SPECIFY OTHER TYPE OF RESIDENCE

I state the following about the person I gave the papers to (PROVIDE AS MANY DETAILS AS POSSIBLE):

Their name: _____.

Their approximate age: _____.

Their relationship to the other party is:

☐ Spouse/partner

☐ Family member (specify): _____

☐ Roommate

☐ Other: _____

☐ **leaving them at the other party's attorney's office** with the attorney, a clerk or other person in charge:

PRINT NAME OF PERSON SERVED WITH PAPERS

TITLE OF PERSON SERVED

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE

☐ **sending them electronically** through CaseFileXpress or some other electronic way agreed to by the other party in writing:

EMAIL ADDRESS OF OTHER PARTY (IF USED)

ELECTRONIC MEANS USED (FOR EXAMPLE: EMAIL, CASEFILEXPRESS)

☐ **some other way** agreed to by the other party in writing:

SPECIFY HOW SERVICE WAS COMPLETED

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

If this document is to be signed outside the geographic boundaries of the United States, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, additional requirements must be met prior to signing. See Super. Ct. Dom. Rel. R. 2(c)(1)(B).

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