

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

PRINT YOUR SPOUSE'S NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE

DRB

PLAINTIFF,

JUDGE: _____

v.

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.

DEFENDANT.

**CONTESTED ANSWER TO COMPLAINT FOR LEGAL SEPARATION AND
COUNTERCLAIM**

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

1. With regard to this Court's authority to decide my spouse's request for legal separation and related issues, I answer and state that [CHECK ONE]

☐ **I agree** with my spouse's statement that this Court has the authority to decide my spouse's request for legal separation and related issues.

☐ **I disagree** with my spouse's statement that this Court has the authority to decide my spouse's request for legal separation and related issues.

2. With regard to my marriage to my spouse, I answer and state that [CHECK ONE]

- ☐ **I agree** with my spouse's statement about how, when and where we were married.
- ☐ **I disagree** with my spouse's statement about how, when and where we were married.

3. With regard to my separation from my spouse, I answer and state that [CHECK ONE]

- ☐ **I agree** with my spouse's statement about when we separated.
- ☐ **I disagree** with my spouse's statement about when we separated.

4. With regard to my spouse's married name, I answer and state that [CHECK ONE]

- ☐ **I agree** with my spouse's statement about his or her name change.
- ☐ **I disagree** with my spouse's statement about his or her name change.
- ☐ **I further state** that I changed my name when I married my spouse and I now wish to return to my birth name or another legal name I used before my marriage. I have no illegal or fraudulent reason for making this request. The former name I want restored is:

PRINT NAME YOU WOULD LIKE THE COURT TO RESTORE

Marital Property & Marital Debt
--

5. With regard to property from my marriage, I answer and state that [CHECK ONE]

- ☐ **I agree** with my spouse's statement about marital property, **and I agree** with all of my spouse's statements on Attachment A.
- ☐ **I disagree** with my spouse's statement about marital property **and further state** that I have completed and attached the additional information required on Attachment A, which I incorporate into this Answer and Counterclaim.

6. With regard to debt from my marriage, I answer and state that [CHECK ONE]

- ☐ **I agree** with my spouse's statement that we have marital debt that we are asking the Court to assign, **and I agree** with all of my spouse's statements on Attachment A.
- ☐ **I disagree** with my spouse's statement about marital debt **and further state** that I have completed and attached the additional information required on Attachment A, which I incorporate into this Answer and Counterclaim.

Alimony

7. With regard to my spouse's statement about temporary financial support, I answer and state that [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]

- ☐ **I agree** with my spouse's statement about temporary financial support.
- ☐ **I disagree** with my spouse's statement about temporary financial support at this time and will file an "Opposition to Motion for Temporary Alimony" if my spouse files a separate motion requesting temporary alimony.
- ☐ **I further state** that I need temporary financial support and will file a separate motion ("Motion for Temporary Alimony") asking the Court to grant this request.

8. With regard to my spouse's statement about alimony, I answer and state that [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]

- ☐ **I agree** with my spouse's statement about alimony.
- ☐ **I disagree** with my spouse's statement about his or her need for alimony **and/or I disagree** that I have the ability to pay alimony.
- ☐ **I further state** that I need alimony from my spouse and I believe my spouse has the ability to pay alimony to me.

Custody

9. With regard to my spouse's statement about children of this marriage, I answer and state that [CHECK ONE]

- ☐ **I agree** with my spouse's statement about custody.
- ☐ **I disagree** with my spouse's statement about custody, and I have completed and attached the additional information required on Attachment B, which I incorporate into this Answer and Counterclaim.

Child Support

10. With regard to my spouse's statement about my legal obligation to contribute to the support of our eligible child(ren), including any adult disabled children, I answer and state that [CHECK ONE]

- ☐ **I agree** with my spouse's statement about my legal obligation.
- ☐ **I disagree** with my spouse's statement about my legal obligation.

11. With regard to my spouse's request for child support, I answer and state that [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]

- ☐ **I agree** with my spouse's statement about child support.
- ☐ **I disagree** with my spouse's statement about child support, and I have completed and attached the additional information required on Attachment C, which I incorporate into this Answer and Counterclaim.
- ☐ **I further state** that I am asking the Court to award child support to me, **and** I have completed and attached the additional information required on Attachment C, which I incorporate into this Answer and Counterclaim.

Attachments

12. With regard to my spouse's statement that he or she included attachment(s) to his or her Complaint for Legal Separation, I answer and state that [CHECK ONE]

- ☐ **I agree** with my spouse's statement about attachments.
- ☐ **I disagree** with my spouse's statement about attachments.

13. I further state that in support of my Answer and Counterclaim, I have included the following attachment(s):

- ☐ No attachments
- ☐ Attachment A (Marital Property and Marital Debt)
- ☐ Attachment B (Custody)
- ☐ Attachment C (Child Support)

14. 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]

- ☐ Grant ☐ Deny my spouse's request for a Legal Separation.
- ☐ Divide marital property and/or assign marital debt in a manner that is equitable, just and reasonable.
- ☐ Award alimony in a manner that is fair and just.
- ☐ Award custody in the best interests of the child(ren).
- ☐ Deny my spouse's request for child support according to the Child Support Guideline of the District of Columbia and other applicable laws.
- ☐ Hold a hearing on any request for child support within 45 days of filing and issue a Notice of Hearing and Order Directing Appearance ("NOHODA") to the other parent with the date and time of the hearing.
- ☐ Award child support according to the Child Support Guideline of the District of Columbia and other applicable laws, including:
 - ☐ current child support (support starting today and continuing into the future)
 - ☐ retroactive child support (support for time before today)
 - ☐ medical support
- ☐ Note that we have an agreement. I request that the Court: [CHECK ONE]
 - ☐ *include* our agreement as a part of its order.
 - ☐ *not include* our agreement as a part of its order.
- ☐ Restore me to my former name.
- ☐ Grant my spouse's request to be restored to his or her former name.

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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FAMILY COURT
Domestic Relations Branch**

PRINT PLAINTIFF'S NAME

_____ 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.

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