ANSWER AND COUNTERCLAIM TO PETITION TO ESTABLISH CUSTODY AND VISITATION

AC-3

Resource Center 1 South Sierra St., Third Floor Reno, NV 89501 775-325-6731

www.washoecourts.com

ANSWER AND COUNTERCLAIM TO PETITION TO ESTABLISH CUSTODY AND VISITATION

PACKET AC-3

Use this packet only if <u>all</u> of the following statements are true:

You received a petition to establish custody and visitation.

You wish to file an answer and counterclaim.

A default has not been entered against you.

Attention

- An answer must be filed within 21 days after you have received the summons and petition. If you do not file within that time, the other parent may take a default against you and be awarded what they have asked for in their petition.
- If you received a request to waive service of summons, please contact the Resource Center for more information.
- If you received other motions with the petition, you must answer to those motions with forms other than this answer and counterclaim. Please contact the Resource Center for more information.

The penalty for willfully making a false statement under penalty of perjury is a minimum of 1 year, and a maximum of 4 years in prison, in addition to a fine of not more than \$5,000.00. N.R.S. §199.145.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORMS

Carefully read all instructions before starting to fill out any of the forms.

Use **black or blue ink only**. Neatly print or type the information requested.

Do not use correction fluid/tape on the forms.

This packet contains the following forms:

- 1. EFile User Agreement (Standard)
- 2. Family Court Information Sheet
- 3. Answer and Counterclaim to Petition to Establish Custody and Visitation
 - a. Appendix A: Child Custody Schedule
 - b. Appendix B: Child Support Worksheets
- 4. General Financial Disclosure Form
- 5. Proof of Service
- 6. Definitions of Terms Used in this Packet

INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 1

If you already have an eFlex account for a different case, you do not need to create another account and can skip this step.

eFlex Account and eFile User Agreement:

To file your documents, you will need to sign up for an eFlex account and have a valid email address. There is no fee to sign up for a standard eFlex account. To sign up:

 Carefully read and complete the eFile User Agreement (Standard) by filling in as much information as possible, signing, and dating page two;
 Return the eFile User Agreement (Standard) to the Second Judicial District Court, or email it to <u>eflexsupport@washoecourts.us</u>; and
 Request an account at <u>https://wceflex.washoecourts.com/</u>.



If you need further assistance signing up for an account, please call the Resource Center at 775-325-6731.

INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 2

Complete the Family Court Information Sheet as Shown:



INSTRUCTIONS STEP 3

Complete the Answer and Counterclaim to Petition to Establish Custody and Visitation as Shown:



INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 3a

Child Custody Schedules

Please review Appendix A: Custody Schedules.

These example schedules can assist you in filling out the answer and counterclaim. They do not need to be filed with the court. However, you may do so if you would like.

		APPENDE	X A: Custod	y Schedules		
	shown in O					lect a pre-set own visitation
Option 1: V	Veek On / V	Veek Off (J	oint Physical	Custody)		
child(ren) w	ill spend one ne week (sev	e week (seve	n days) with	you and ther	n the followi	. The minor ng week they ernate weekly
Example pr	ovided below	w (with excha	nges taking p	lace on Frida	iy afternoon)	
	Ye	our custodial	days / weeks	with the min	or child.	
	T h	ne other parer	nt's custodial	days / weeks	with the mit	ior child.
						1
	Option	n 1: Week C	n / Week Of	f Custody S		
					Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
) >					

Custody Schedules

These custody schedules are provided to you as examples. You may select a pre-set schedule as shown in Options A - C, OR you may select to create your own visitation schedule in Option D.

Option A: Week On / Week Off (Joint Physical Custody)

You and the other parent will have equal time with the minor child(ren). The minor child(ren) will spend one week (seven (7) days) with you and then the following week they will spend one week (seven (7) days) with the other parent. This schedule will alternate weekly throughout the year.

Example provided below (with exchanges taking place on Friday afternoon):

Your custodial days / weeks with the minor child(ren).

The other parent's custodial days / weeks with the minor child(ren).

	Optio	on A: Week	On / Week Of	ff Custody	Schedule	
					Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				+	<b></b> _	

#### **Option B: Rotating 2/2/3** (Joint Physical Custody)

The other parent and you will have equal time with the minor child(ren). On week one, the minor child(ren) will spend two days with you (Monday – Wednesday), followed by two days with the other parent (Wednesday – Friday), ending the week with three days with you (Friday – Monday). On week two, the minor child(ren) will spend two days with the other parent (Monday – Wednesday), followed by two days with you (Wednesday – Friday), ending the week with three days with the other parent (Monday – Wednesday), followed by two days with you (Wednesday – Friday), ending the week with three days with the other parent (Friday – Monday). This schedule will alternate weekly throughout the year.

Example provided on the next page (exchanges taking place in the a.m. OR pm (see below), in some cases at school drop off, on exchange days).

#### Your custodial days with the minor child(ren).

	<b>Option B</b>	: Rotating 2	/2/3 Custody	Schedule (A	M Drop O	ff)
					Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<u></u>				<u>mannan</u> an
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<u>hannan</u>		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						min and the second s
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				,		

The other parent's custodial days with the minor child(ren).

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday		Friday	Saturday
5	Tuesday	Wednesday	TT1 1		
			Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			·		
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<u>/////////////////////////////////////</u>	<u></u>	
	Monday Monday	Monday Tuesday Monday Tuesday	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Monday Tuesday Wednesday	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

#### **Option C: Every Other Weekend** (Primary Physical Custody)

The other parent OR you will have more custodial time with the minor child(ren). On week one, the parent with primary physical custody will have the entire week (seven (7) days), on week two, the parent with primary physical custody will have approximately four days, with the other parent having approximately three days of visitation with the minor child(ren). This schedule will alternate weekly throughout the year.

Example provided on the next page (exchanges taking place on Friday afternoon, in some cases at school drop off, on exchange days). You can schedule an off week visitation for the noncustodial parent.

Primary parent's custodial days with the minor child(ren).

		Option (	C: Every Othe	er Weekend	l	
					Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	•••••	~~~~~		·····	********	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			********			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<u></u>	<u></u>			ZZO	

Other parent's visitation days with the minor child(ren).

**Option D: Create your own.** 

_____

<b>Option D: Create your own.</b>							
					Friday	Saturday	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	

### **INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 3b**

### **Calculating Child Support**

Appendix B does not need to be filed with the Court.



• Use this work sheet to help you calculate the child support.

### **APPENDIX B**

### **Gross Monthly Income (GMI)**

## The first step in determining child support is calculating your Gross Monthly Income, the amount of money you make each month *before taxes are deducted*.

Gross Monthly Income includes money received from employment, social security (*Not SSI*), unemployment benefits, pension/retirement, interest/investments, etc. Gross Monthly Income DOES NOT include SSI, SNAP, TANF, cash benefits from the county, or child support received. *For a full list of incomes included in Gross Monthly Income please see NAC 425*.

To calculate your Gross Monthly Income from employment, use one of the tables below:

|--|

Annual Income	\$
÷ by 12 months =	\$
Employment GMI	

Biweekly Income	\$
x26 weeks	\$
÷ by 12 months = Employment GMI	\$

Weekly Income	\$
x52 weeks	\$
÷ by 12 months = Employment GMI	\$

Hourly Wage	\$
# of hours worked per week	
hourly wage x hours worked per week	\$
x52 weeks	\$
÷ by 12 months = Employment GMI	\$

Parent 2

Annual Income	\$
÷ by 12 months = Employment GMI	\$

Biweekly Income	\$
x26 weeks	\$
÷ by 12 months = Employment GMI	\$

Weekly Income	\$
x52 weeks	\$
÷ by 12 months = Employment GMI	\$

Hourly Wage	\$
# of hours worked per week	
hourly wage x hours worked per week	\$
x52 weeks	\$
÷ by 12 months = Employment GMI	\$

Copy the amount of GMI from Employment for each parent into the table on the following page.

Now that you have determined the GMI from employment, add any money you receive each month from social security, unemployment benefits, pension/retirement, interest/investments, etc. Use the table below to find your Total Gross Monthly Income.

#### Parent 1

Employment GMI:	\$
Social Security:	\$
Unemployment:	\$
Pension/Retirement:	\$
Interest/Investments:	\$
Other:	\$
TOTAL GMI:	\$

#### Parent 2

Employment GMI:	\$
Social Security:	\$
Unemployment:	\$
Pension/Retirement:	\$
Interest/Investments:	\$
Other:	\$
TOTAL GMI:	\$

You should now have your Total Gross Monthly Income. If you or the other parent's Total Gross Monthly Income is less than \$1,956 a month, use the Low-Income Child Support Schedule below to complete the following pages. Please continue to the next page. Low-Income Child Support Schedule

Child Support Obligation of Low-Income Payers at 75% to 150% of the 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines

at 75% to 150% of the 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines										
	One Child Two Chil		hildren	en Three Children			hildren	Five Children		
Monthly		Child		Child		Child		Child		Child
Income	Percent	Support	Percent	Support	Percent	Support	Percent	Support	Percent	Support
Uр То		Amount		Amount		Amount		Amount		Amount
\$978	10.56%	\$103	14.52%	\$142	17.16%	\$168	18.48%	\$181	19.80%	\$194
\$1,013	10.75%	\$109	14.79%	\$150	17.48%	\$177	18.82%	\$191	20.16%	\$204
\$1,048	10.95%	\$115	15.05%	\$158	17.79%	\$186	19.16%	\$201	20.53%	\$215
\$1,083	11.14%	\$121	15.32%	\$166	18.11%	\$196	19.50%	\$211	20.89%	\$226
\$1,118	11.34%	\$127	15.59%	\$174	18.42%	\$206	19.84%	\$222	21.26%	\$238
\$1,153	11.53%	\$133	15.86%	\$183	18.74%	\$216	20.18%	\$233	21.62%	\$249
\$1,188	11.73%	\$139	16.12%	\$191	19.05%	\$226	20.52%	\$244	21.99%	\$261
\$1,223	11.92%	\$146	16.39%	\$200	19.37%	\$237	20.86%	\$255	22.35%	\$273
\$1,258	12.11%	\$152	16.66%	\$209	19.69%	\$248	21.20%	\$267	22.71%	\$286
\$1,293	12.31%	\$159	16.92%	\$219	20.00%	\$259	21.54%	\$278	23.08%	\$298
\$1,327	12.50%	\$166	17.19%	\$228	20.32%	\$270	21.88%	\$290	23.44%	\$311
\$1,362	12.70%	\$173	17.46%	\$238	20.63%	\$281	22.22%	\$303	23.81%	\$324
\$1,397	12.89%	\$180	17.73%	\$248	20.95%	\$293	22.56%	\$315	24.17%	\$338
\$1,432	13.09%	\$187	17.99%	\$258	21.26%	\$305	22.90%	\$328	24.54%	\$351
\$1,467	13.28%	\$195	18.26%	\$268	21.58%	\$317	23.24%	\$341	24.90%	\$365
\$1,502	13.47%	\$202	18.53%	\$278	21.90%	\$329	23.58%	\$354	25.26%	\$380
\$1,537	13.67%	\$210	18.79%	\$289	22.21%	\$341	23.92%	\$368	25.63%	\$394
\$1,572	13.86%	\$218	19.06%	\$300	22.53%	\$354	24.26%	\$381	25.99%	\$409
\$1,607	14.06%	\$226	19.33%	\$311	22.84%	\$367	24.60%	\$395	26.36%	\$424
\$1,642	14.25%	\$234	19.60%	\$322	23.16%	\$380	24.94%	\$409	26.72%	\$439
\$1,677	14.45%	\$242	19.86%	\$333	23.47%	\$394	25.28%	\$424	27.09%	\$454
\$1,712	14.64%	\$251	20.13%	\$345	23.79%	\$407	25.62%	\$439	27.45%	\$470
\$1,747	14.83%	\$259	20.40%	\$356	24.11%	\$421	25.96%	\$453	27.81%	\$486
\$1,782	15.03%	\$268	20.66%	\$368	24.42%	\$435	26.30%	\$469	28.18%	\$502
\$1,817	15.22%	\$277	20.93%	\$380	24.74%	\$449	26.64%	\$484	28.54%	\$518
\$1,851	15.42%	\$285	21.20%	\$392	25.05%	\$464	26.98%	\$500	28.91%	\$535
\$1,886	15.61%	\$294	21.47%	\$405	25.37%	\$479	27.32%	\$515	29.27%	\$552
\$1,921	15.81%	\$304	21.73%	\$418	25.68%	\$493	27.66%	\$531	29.64%	\$569
\$1,956	16.00%	\$313	22.00%	\$430	26.00%	\$509	28.00%	\$548	30.00%	\$587

### **Child Support Worksheet**

### 1 Parent 1's Information

Gross monthly income (GMI) includes: employment income, including consistent overtime; interest and investment income; Social Security old-age insurance benefits and disability benefits (SSD), but not supplemental security income (SSI); alimony; military allowances; periodic payments from a pension or retirement plan; and unemployment benefits.

How much is Parent 1's gross monthly income? \$_____

A) If Parent 1's gross monthly income is less than \$1,956, use the attached low-income child support schedule to identify Parent 1's child support obligation. \$______

If Parent 1's gross monthly income is less than \$1,956, stop here, and go to line ③.

(B) Multiply the amount of Parent 1's gross monthly income which is more than \$1,956 but less than \$6,000 by

.16 (for 1 child)
.22 (for 2 children)
.26 (for 3 children)
.28 (for 4 children)
Add .02 for each additional child

\$_____

Multiply the amount of Parent 1's gross monthly income which is more than \$6,000 but less than \$10,000 by

.08 (for 1 child) .11 (for 2 children) .13 (for 3 children) .14 (for 4 children) Add .01 for each additional child

\$_____

 $^{
m )}~$  Multiply the amount of Parent 1's gross monthly income which is more than \$10,000 by

Parent 1's child support obligation (Add lines B, C, and D)

.04 (for 1 child)
.06 (for 2 children)
.06 (for 3 children)
.07 (for 4 children)
Add .005 for each additional child

Ś

### 2 Parent 2's Information

Gross monthly income (GMI) includes: employment income, including consistent overtime; interest and investment income; Social Security old-age insurance benefits and disability benefits (SSD), but not supplemental security income (SSI); alimony; military allowances; periodic payments from a pension or retirement plan; and unemployment benefits.

How much is Parent 2's gross monthly income? \$_____

(A) If Parent 2's gross monthly income is less than \$1,956, use the attached low-income child support schedule to identify Parent 2's child support obligation. \$_____

If Parent 2's gross monthly income is less than \$1,956, stop here, and go to line ③.

B Multiply the amount of Parent 2's gross monthly income which is more than \$1,956 but less than \$6,000 by

.16 (for 1 child)
.22 (for 2 children)
.26 (for 3 children)
.28 (for 4 children)
Add .02 for each additional child

\$_____

⁹ Multiply the amount of Parent 2's gross monthly income which is more than \$6,000 but less than \$10,000 by

.08 (for 1 child) .11 (for 2 children) .13 (for 3 children) .14 (for 4 children) Add .01 for each additional child

\$_____

 $^{(\prime)}$  Multiply the amount of Parent 2's gross monthly income which is more than \$10,000 by

.04 (for 1 child)
.06 (for 2 children)
.06 (for 3 children)
.07 (for 4 children)
Add .005 for each additional child

-----

\$

Parent 2's child support obligation (Add lines B, C, and D)

REV 2/13/2025 NW

Child Support Worksheet

**Joint Physical Custody.** Only fill out this section if you are asking for joint physical custody. Skip to ④ if one parent is to be awarded primary physical custody.

**Subtract** the lower earning parent's child support obligation from the higher earning parent's child support obligation.



### (4) <u>Adjustments.</u> (complete all that apply)

- If <u>Parent 1</u> wants primary or sole physical custody, the court uses the number in (as the standard amount of child support Parent 2 would pay.
- If <u>Parent 2</u> wants to have primary or sole physical custody, the court uses the number in [®] as the standard amount of child support Parent 1 would pay.
- If you want <u>both parents</u> to have joint physical custody, the court uses the number in ③ as the standard amount of child support.

Adjustment Factors	Amount -/+
Any special education needs of the child	\$
A parent's legal responsibility to support others	\$
Value of services contributed by either parent	\$
Any public assistance paid to support the child	\$
Cost of transportation of the child to and from visitation	\$
The relative income of both households.	\$
The obligor's ability to pay	\$
Any other necessary expenses for the benefit of the child(ren)	\$
Total Deviations	\$

### 5 <u>Final Child Support Amount Requested:</u>

\$ _____ paid by (*name*)

### **INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 4**

### Complete the General Financial Disclosure Form as Shown:

Code: 1740 Name: Address: Phone: Email: Attorney for Nevada State Bar No Second Ju Washoe Co	4) Print the Case No. and Department No. from the petition you were given.
Plaintiff,	Case No
vs.	Dept
Defendant.	—
<ul> <li>A. Personal Information: <ol> <li>What is your full name? (first, middle, last)</li> <li>How old are you?</li> <li>How old are you?</li> <li>What is your highest level of education?</li> </ol> </li> <li>B. Employment Information: <ol> <li>Are you currently employed/ self-employed?</li> <li>No</li> <li>Yes If yes, complet</li> </ol> </li> <li>Date of Hire Employer Name <ol> <li>No</li> <li>Yes If yes, if yes, what a What is</li> </ol> </li> <li>C. Prior Employment: If you are unemployed or har complete the following information.</li> </ul>	3.What is your date of birth?
	Name:

### **INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 5**

### **Electronically Filing the Documents**

You will need to upload the original documents to eFlex. EFlex is available online at <u>https://wceflex.washoecourts.com/</u>, in the Law Library and Resource Center.

Sign into your eFlex account using the username and password you created and electronically file the:

- Family Court Information Sheet;
- Answer and Counterclaim;
- General Financial Disclosure form.

Make sure to keep the original documents you file for your personal records. Filestamped copies of your documents are available through your eFlex account.

Scanners are available in the Law Library and Resource Center.

There may be a filing fee charged when documents are filed. Fee information is available at the Resource Center and online at: <u>www.washoecourts.com</u>.

#### FILING FEE WAIVERS

If you cannot afford the fee, you may apply to have it waived. To apply, you must fill out and file the **Application for Waiver of Fees and Costs packet**, which you can get at:

- Resource Center, 1 South Sierra Street, Reno, NV, Third Floor
- Law Library, 75 Court Street, Reno, NV, First Floor
- Online at: <u>www.washoecourts.com</u> (select the "Forms and Packets" tab on the right hand side of the home screen)

### **INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 6**

### Setting a Case Management Conference

You must have a case management conference. If the other parent who filed the petition did not set one, you need to set one by filling out and filing the **F-1 Notice to Set** packet. The notice to set packet can be found at the Resource Center, Law Library, or on our website at <u>www.washoecourts.com</u>, under the Forms and Packets tab.

### **INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 7**

1) Print your name, address,	1 2 3 4	Code: 3720 Name: Address: Telephone: Email: Self-Represented Litigant
2) Print the names of the parties, the Case No. and Dept. No. just as they appear on all other documents in this case.	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	IN THE FAMILY DIVISION OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE Plaintiff / Petitioner / Joint Petitioner, vs. Dept. No. Percord of SERVICE PROOF OF SERVICE
<ul><li>3) Print the name of the person served, the date, and select how they were served.</li></ul>	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	I served a true and correct copy of the Answer to Petition to Establish Custody and Visitation and Counterclaim and General Financial Disclosure Form upon the following people: 1. Name: Date: By: Service by eFlex Personal Service Certified mail, return receipt attached U.S. Mail, postage prepaid Other: Address where service occurred, if applicable: If more room is needed, attach additional sheets. A copy of this/Proof of Service has been electronically served, mailed, or personally delivered to all parties of their lawyer.
4) The person who completed service must date, sign, and print their name.	25 26 27 28	This document does not contain the personal information of any person as defined by NRS 603A.040. Date: Your Signature: Print Your Name: REV 9/2018 JCB 1 M4 PROOF OF SERVICE

### Complete the Proof of Service as Shown:

### **INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 8**

### Filing the Proof of Service

After service is completed, you must file the proof of service with the court. See INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 5. There will not be a filing fee for the proof of service.

Without proof of service on the other parent, the court cannot consider your answer and counterclaim.

### **Time to Respond**

The other parent has 21 days to respond, starting the day after being served. If you served the other parent by mail, the other parent has 24 days to respond.

Your documents are not filed until any filing fees are paid.

If the other parent does not respond within that time period, you may move for default on the counterclaim. A default packet is available at the Law Library, Resource Center, or online at <u>www.washoecourts.com</u>

### Legal Assistance Information

The information in this packet is provided as a courtesy only. This packet is not a substitute for the advice of an attorney. Counsel is always recommended for legal matters.

If you do not have an attorney, you are encouraged to seek the advice of a licensed attorney or contact the Resource Center or the Law Library. **The Resource Center and the Law Library staff cannot give legal advice** but can give information regarding court procedures.

You may wish to speak with a lawyer at no cost through the Law Library's Lawyer in the Library program. The Lawyer in the Library program is held via Zoom; you must register ahead of time to participate. No walk-ins accepted as space is limited.

### LAWYER IN THE LIBRARY

Sign up on our website: <u>https://www.washoecourts.com/LawLibrary/LawyerInLibrary</u> For questions, contact the Law Library at 775-328-3250

To seek assistance from other free or reduced-cost legal resources in the area, please contact:

#### NEVADA LEGAL SERVICES

449 S. Virginia St. Reno, NV 89501 775-284-3491 – leave a message, if necessary https://nevadalegalservices.org

#### NORTHERN NEVADA LEGAL AID

1 S. Sierra St., 1st Floor Reno, NV 89501 775-321-2062 – leave a message, if necessary <u>https://nnlegalaid.org</u>

Rev. 12.05.2023 SB

LEGAL ASSISTANCE INFO – Page 1

#### SOME DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN FAMILY CASES

#### The following definitions and explanations are only to be used as general guidance.

The definitions provided do not explain the entire legal meaning or importance of the terms. A private attorney, licensed to practice in the State of Nevada, or a representative of one of the local legal resource agencies can provide you with a full explanation of the terms.

Adjustment Factors: The court may adjust the amount of Child Support based upon any of the following factors:

- (a) Any special educational needs of the child;
- (b) The legal responsibility of the parties for the support of others;
- (c) The value of services contributed by either party;
- (d) Any public assistance paid to support the child;
- (e) The cost of transportation of the child to and from visitation;
- (f) The relative income of both households, so long as the adjustment does not exceed the total obligation of the other party;
- (g) Any other necessary expenses for the benefit of the child; and
- (h) The obligor's ability to pay.

2. The court may include benefits received by a child pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 402(d) based on a parent's entitlement to federal disability or old-age insurance benefits pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 401 to 433, inclusive, in the parent's gross income and adjust an obligor's child support obligation by subtracting the amount of the child's benefit. In no case may this adjustment require an obligee to reimburse an obligor for any portion of the child's benefit. NAC 425.150.

**Answer:** A written pleading that admits or denies the allegations made in a complaint or petition. Failure to file can lead to a default.

Arrearage: Past due child support or alimony.

**Best Interest of a Child:** In determining the best interest of a child, the court will consider the following:

- (a) The wishes of a child of suitable age and capacity to form an intelligent preference;
- (b) Any nomination by a parent or guardian;
- (c) Which parent is more likely to allow the child to have frequent associations and a continuing relationship with the other parent;
- (d) The level of conflict between the parents;
- (e) The ability of the parents to cooperate to meet the needs of the child;
- (f) The mental and physical health of the parents;
- (g) The physical, developmental, and emotional needs of the child;
- (h) The relationship of the child with each parent;
- (i) The ability of the child to maintain a relationship with siblings;
- (j) Any history of parental abuse or neglect;
- (k) Any history of domestic violence; and
- (l) Any act of abduction. NRS 125C.0035(4).

**Case Management Conference (CMC):** The first meeting between the parties and the court. About half of all divorce cases settle at the CMC. For those cases that don't settle, the court frequently enters temporary order regarding alimony, attorney fees, child custody, child support, possession of property, mediation, and any issue requiring attention.

#### Child Custody: See Legal Custody and Physical Custody.

**Child Support:** The amount of money paid monthly or weekly by a parent to the person who has physical custody of that parent's child(ren). Calculation of the amount of child support requires consideration of **Gross Monthly Income (g.m.i.)**, **Obligation of Support**, **Deviation Factors**, **Minimum Amount of Support**, and **Presumptive Maximum Amounts**.

**Counterclaim:** A claim, similar to the **Petition**, filed by a Defendant/ Respondent, usually with the **Answer**.

**Default:** A procedure by which the **Plaintiff**/ **Petitioner** is awarded whatever was requested in the **Petition** if the **Defendant**/ **Respondent** fails to file an **Answer** or otherwise appear in the lawsuit. Courts prefer to resolve cases on the merits and not by default.

Defendant/ Respondent: A person against whom a Petition is filed. See Parties.

**Domestic Violence:** Domestic violence occurs when a person commits one of the following acts upon the person's spouse or former spouse, anyone else related to that person by blood or marriage; anyone else with whom that person has or did have a dating relationship; anyone with whom that person has a child; the minor child of any of the people here described; and any custodian or legal guardian of that person's minor child:

- (a) Battery;
- (b) Assault;
- (c) Compelling a person by force or threat of force to perform an act from which the person has the right to refrain or to refrain from an act which the person has a right to perform;
- (d) Sexual assault;
- (e) A knowing, purposeful, or reckless course of conduct intended to harass which may include:
  - (1) Stalking;
  - (2) Arson;
  - (3) Trespassing;
  - (4) Larceny;
  - (5) Destruction of private property;
  - (6) Carrying a concealed weapon without a permit;
  - (7) Injuring or killing an animal;
  - (8) Burglary;
  - (9) An invasion of the home.
- (f) False imprisonment
- (g) Pandering. NRS 33.018(1)

The provisions of this section do not apply to:

- (a) Siblings, except those siblings who are in a custodial or guardianship relationship with each other; or
- (b) Cousins, except those cousins who are in a custodial or guardianship relationship with each other. NRS 33.018(2)

EPO: Extended Protection Order against domestic violence. See Domestic Violence.

**Ex Parte Motion:** Motions granted without notice to the other party. Ex parte motions are for use only in emergency situations, usually when the health or safety of a child is in danger. Many people file ex parte motions hoping they will get faster action. In fact, **if there is no emergency the ex parte motion will be denied and there will be considerable delay.** If an ex parte motion is granted, the law requires that a hearing be held within ten days. If there is no emergency, a **notice motion** should be used.

**Financial Declaration:** A court approved form disclosing the assets and liabilities of parties. In divorce cases a **Financial Declaration** must be filed within 14 days after an **Answer** is filed and with any **Motion** asking for Child Support or Alimony. WDCR 40.

**Legal Custody:** Legal custody of a child is the right to make major decisions regarding the child, including health, education, and religion. **Sole legal custody** gives that right to one parent. **Joint legal custody** gives that right to both parents and requires them to cooperate, communicate, and compromise. If joint legal custodians cannot agree, the court will settle their disputes. *Rivero v. Rivero* 125 Nev. 410, 420-421 (2009).

**Mediation:** The court will sometimes order divorcing couples to attend half-day mediation with trained mediators in an attempt to allow parents to decide matters of child custody and visitation. There is a fee, based on income, for attending mediation.

**Motion:** You can't write a letter to the judge. Any request that you make for the court to do something for you, unless it is made orally at a hearing, must be in a writing called a motion.

Motion for Order to Show Cause: A type of Motion that asks the court to find that the other side has violated a court order.

**Notice Motion:** Most motions should be notice motions so that the court will have the opportunity to read the arguments of both sides before making a decision. Notice motions must be served on the other party. The other party has 14 days to file and opposition to the motion. Then the party filing the motion has seven days to file a reply to the opposition. Thereafter, either party **must** submit the motion to the court for decision.

#### Parties: The Plaintiff/ Petitioner and the Defendant/ Respondent.

**Physical Custody:** Physical custody involves the time a child resides with a parent and that parent provides supervision and makes the day-to-day decisions regarding the child. Parents can share **joint physical custody** or one parent may have **primary physical custody**. Nevada's law creates a preference in favor of **joint physical custody**.

#### Plaintiff/ Petitioner: A person who starts a legal action by filing a Petition. See Parties.

**Relocation:** Moving out of state with a child, or to a place within the state that is at such a distance that the move will substantially impair the ability of the other parent to maintain a meaningful relationship with the child. Relocation requires the prior written consent of the other parent or the court. Failure to obtain prior written consent may affect child custody and may be a crime. NRS 200.359.

**Settlement Conference:** Usually the second time the court meets with the **Parties**. Few family law cases go to trial. The court tries very hard to bring **Parties** to agreement, particularly when they are parents together.

**Submission:** Nothing filed with the court is sent to the judge for decision until it is submitted by filing a form entitled "Request for Submission."

Summons: A form, issued by the clerk of the court, to be served on the **Defendant/ Respondent** with the **Complaint**. The **Summons** informs the **Defendant/ Respondent** that he/she has been sued and tells him/her when to file the **Answer**.

TPO: Temporary Protection Order against domestic violence. See Domestic Violence.