

RESPONSE TO PETITION TO ESTABLISH PATERNITY, LEGAL DECISION-MAKING AND PARENTING TIME



PINAL COUNTY

FORMS

**Provided as a Public Service by
AMANDA STANFORD
Clerk of the Superior Court**

REPRESENTING YOURSELF IN FAMILY COURT

It is not easy to represent yourself in Family Court, but many people do it for financial and other reasons. This brief guide provides some very basic information to help you understand the proceedings. It does not tell you everything about family law or family court, and it is no substitute for understanding Title 25 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, the Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure, and the Arizona Rules of Evidence. For more information, you should go to the Pinal County Superior Court website (www.pinalcountyz.gov/Departments/JudicialBranch/) or consult a lawyer.

Proceedings In Family Court

Proceedings in Family Court follow the *Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure*.

In a divorce or paternity case, you may be referred to an Early Resolution Conference, Mediation, a Parenting Conference, or a Settlement Conference (sometimes called an Alternative Dispute Resolution or “ADR”). These proceedings are designed to help the parties reach agreement on all or some of their disputes. They generally are not conducted by your assigned Judge.

You may also have to appear before the Judge for a pretrial hearing. The most common pretrial hearings are (1) a *Resolution Management Conference*, which helps the Judge manage the case by, among other things, setting deadlines and a trial date; and (2) a *Temporary Orders Hearing*, at which the Judge may issue temporary orders to govern the case until the trial.

If you do not reach a settlement of all issues, there will be a *trial*. This is the single hearing where the Judge will hear your evidence and make final decisions on disputed issues.

Disclosure And Discovery

To help parties prepare for the trial, the Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure have *disclosure* and *discovery* requirements.

Disclosure requirements are in Rule 49. Each party must voluntarily provide certain information to the other party. You have an obligation to disclose such information to the other party, and you have a right to insist that the other party disclose such information to you. Failure to disclose as required may result in sanctions, including being barred from offering evidence that was not timely disclosed.

If you need information that is not voluntarily disclosed, you may engage in *discovery*, such as requesting documents from a party or subpoenaing documents from non-parties. Rules 51 through 65 of the Arizona Rules of Family Court discuss the requirements for discovery.

What Is A Trial?

A trial is the time for you and for the other party to present *evidence* on disputed issues.

General Issues If Children Are Involved In Your Case:

- Legal custody (decision-making authority over major matters concerning the children).
- Parenting time (what time each parent will spend with the children).
- Child support.

Additional Issues If Your Case Involves A Divorce:

- Spousal maintenance.
- Division of community property and allocation of debts.

The Judge will decide these issues based on the evidence presented during the trial. *Only evidence you bring to the trial will be considered.*

After the trial, the Judge may issue a ruling in open court or may take the case “under advisement,” which means that the Judge will issue a written ruling at a later time.

The judge’s ruling may be a signed **decree** or **judgment**, which officially concludes the case. If the judge chooses, the judge may decide disputed issues and then require one or both of the parties to submit a decree for the judge’s signature.

Preparing For The Trial

When preparing for the trial, it is critical that you read the judge’s minute entries carefully. The minute entries typically contain the Judge’s requirements for the trial. These requirements may include: (1) Submitting a **pretrial statement** that describes the issues in the case and lists your witnesses and exhibits; and (2) Giving copies of your **exhibits** to the Clerk and to the other party before the trial.

Many Judges impose **time limits** at the trial. It is your responsibility to make sure you present all your evidence in the time allotted.

What Happens During The Trial?

The main thing that happens during the trial is the presentation of **evidence**. The Judge will make decision based on the evidence presented during the trial. Evidence is generally of two kinds: (1) Witness testimony and (2) Documents.

When you call a **witness** to testify, you must ask the witness questions. A witness may only answer questions that are asked. When the party who called a witness is done with questioning, the other party may “cross-examine” the witness by asking additional questions.

A party may testify as a witness on his or her own behalf. However, while a witness is on the stand, the parties may only ask questions. Arguing with a witness or commenting on the answers is not allowed.

Documents may be evidence at the trial, but you must follow the proper procedure. Before the trial (usually 5 days before), you must give documents that you want to use to the Clerk of the Court to be “marked” with an exhibit number. However, marking an exhibit does not mean it is evidence. Rather, during the trial, you must “offer” the exhibit by asking the judge to admit it into evidence. The judge then decides whether to admit the evidence. The judge will consider only evidence that is **admitted**.

Proper Court Behavior

Although family cases are often emotional, it is important that everyone act in an orderly and respectful way in court. Here are some “Do’s and Don’ts:”

- Do dress appropriately. Don’t wear hats, sunglasses, or ragged clothes.
- Do wait your turn to speak. Don’t interrupt or bicker while someone else is talking.
- Do treat others with respect. Don’t curse, make faces, or engage in confrontational behavior.
- Do be honest and candid with the judge. Don’t lie or try to hide things.
- Do make sure that friends and family who accompany you sit quietly. They are not allowed to speak unless called as a witness, and then only when they are testifying.

For Additional Information

This guide presents very basic information. For additional information, read the applicable statutes and rules, visit the Pinal County Superior Court website (www.pinalcountyaz.gov/Departments/Judicial Branch) and if necessary, consult a lawyer.

Name of Person Filing: _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Email Address: _____
ATLAS Number (if applicable) _____
 Representing Self (No Attorney) or Represented by Attorney
If Attorney, Bar Number: _____

**SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
PINAL COUNTY**

Name of Petitioner

CASE NUMBER: _____

**RESPONSE TO PETITION TO ESTABLISH
PATERNITY, CHILD LEGAL DECISION-
MAKING AND PARENTING TIME**

Name of Respondent

HONORABLE: _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. INFORMATION ABOUT THE OTHER PARTY, THE PETITIONER

Name: _____

Address: _____

County of Residence: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Occupation or Job Title: _____

Relationship to minor children for whom the paternity order is requested:

Mother Claims to be the Father Is a court-appointed guardian,
conservator or "best friend" for the child(ren)

2. INFORMATION ABOUT ME, THE RESPONDENT

Name: _____

Address: _____

County of Residence: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Occupation or Job Title: _____

Relationship to minor children for whom the paternity order is requested:

Mother Claims to be the Father Is a court-appointed guardian,
conservator or "best friend" for the child(ren)

3. **INFORMATION ABOUT THE MINOR CHILDREN** is contained in the Affidavit Regarding Minor Children filed with the Petition or in the Petition itself and incorporated by reference.

STATEMENT ABOUT PATERNITY:

4. **WHY YOU THINK OR THE OTHER PERSON IS NOT THE FATHER OF THE MINOR CHILD(REN):**
(Check all boxes that apply)

- A. **AFFIDAVIT:** Petitioner and Respondent **did not sign** an Affidavit or Acknowledgment of Paternity acknowledging that Petitioner or Respondent is the child(ren)'s natural father.
- B. **BIRTH CERTIFICATE:** _____ is not named as the natural father on the minor child(ren)'s birth certificate(s), or a father by the name of _____ is named on the minor children's birth certificates.
- C. **BLOOD TEST:** The parties had DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Testing and _____ (name of father) is shown not to be the minor child(ren)'s natural father. A copy is attached to this Answer.
- D. **PARTIES NOT LIVING TOGETHER:** Petitioner and Respondent were not married to each other at any time during the ten months before the birth of the minor child(ren). The parties did not live together during the period(s) when the minor child(ren) could have been conceived.
- E. **NO SEXUAL INTERCOURSE:** Petitioner and Respondent were not living together and did not have sexual intercourse at the probable date of conception of the minor child(ren).
- F. **SEXUAL INTERCOURSE:** The mother of the minor child(ren) had sexual intercourse with someone else during the period in which the minor child(ren) could have been conceived.
- G. **OTHER** (explain)

5. **ABOUT MARRIAGE AND HUSBAND** (if applicable, check one box only).
 Mother **was not married** at the time the minor child(ren) were born or conceived or at least 10 months before minor child(ren) were born or conceived, **OR**
 Mother **was married** when minor child(ren) were born or conceived or at least 10 months before the minor child(ren) were born or conceived, but husband is not the father of minor child(ren). (Husband must be included as a party to this court case because of marriage.)

6. **SUMMARY OF WHAT I SAY ABOUT THE MINOR CHILDREN THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THE PETITIONER ASKED FOR IN THE PETITION:** (Summarize what is different between what you say about the minor children, and what the other party said in the Petition.)

OTHER STATEMENTS TO THE COURT:

- 7. **MEDICAL EXPENSES:** (Check the applicable boxes)
 There are OR **There are not** unreimbursed medical expenses incurred by the mother, resulting from the birth of the minor child(ren). If there are, these costs and expenses should be awarded to Plaintiff OR Defendant according to law.
- 8. **OTHER EXPENSES:** The parties should be ordered to divide between them any uninsured medical, dental, or health expenses, reasonably incurred for the minor child(ren), in proportion to their respective incomes.
- 9. **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:** (Check the correct box if you are asking for joint Legal Decision-Making.)
Significant domestic violence **has** or **has not** occurred between the parties.
- 10. **VENUE:** This is the proper court to bring this lawsuit under Arizona law because it is the county of residence of the Plaintiff or the Defendant or the child(ren).
- 11. **GENERAL DENIAL:** I deny anything stated in the complaint that I have not specifically admitted, qualified, or denied.

REQUESTS I MAKE TO THE COURT:

- 1. **PATERNITY:**
Order that (name of father) _____ **is not the natural father of** the minor child(ren);
Order that (name of father) _____ **is the natural father of the** minor child(ren).

IN THE EVENT THAT COURT ORDERS THAT (NAME) _____ IS THE NATURAL FATHER, THEN THE COURT SHOULD ALSO ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

- 2. **BIRTH CERTIFICATE:** (check the box and complete this sentence if you want this):
 Order that (name of father) _____ name be added to each minor child's birth certificate;
- 3. **LAST NAME:** (check the box and complete this sentence if you want this):
 Order that each child's last name be changed to the last name of _____

4. **LEGAL DECISION-MAKING AND PARENTING TIME OF CHILDREN:** (check the box and complete A or B).
Order that:

A. **SOLE LEGAL DECISION-MAKING:** Sole Legal Decision-Making of the minor child(ren) be awarded to _____ subject to parenting time as follows:

1. **Reasonable parenting time rights** to the parent who does not have Legal Decision-Making, as will be described in a Parenting Plan attached to the Final Order. OR

2. **Supervised parenting time** between the minor children and the other party is in the best interests of the minor children because (explain here reasons for supervision or no parenting time): _____

i. **Person to supervise:** _____

ii. **Requested restrictions** on parenting time: (explain here) _____

iii. **The cost of supervised parenting time shall be paid by** the parent being supervised; the parent having Legal Decision-Making; shared equally by the parties. OR

3. **No parenting time rights** to the parent who does not have Legal Decision-Making is in the best interests of the minor child(ren) for the following reasons: _____

OR

B. **JOINT LEGAL DECISION-MAKING:** Plaintiff and Defendant agree to act as joint custodians of the minor children, as set forth in the Joint Legal Decision-Making Agreement in the Parenting Plan by the parties, signed by both parties. There have been no significant acts of domestic violence by either parent.

5. **CHILD SUPPORT:** Order that child support be paid by Petitioner OR Respondent in a reasonable amount as determined by the Court under the Arizona Child Support Guidelines, payable on the first day of each month, beginning the first day of the month following the signing of the final order. These payments, and a handling fee, shall be paid through the Support Payment/Clearinghouse and collected by automatic wage assignment. Costs for **past child support and care** for minor child(ren) in the amount of \$ _____ to be paid by Petitioner OR Respondent in the amount of \$ _____ each month until paid in full.

6. **EXPENSES OF MOTHER:** Order that Petitioner OR Respondent pay a reasonable amount to cover unreimbursed expenses incurred by the mother related to the birth of the child(ren).

7. MEDICAL, DENTAL and VISION CARE INSURANCE AND HEALTH CARE EXPENSES FOR MINOR CHILDREN: Order that:

- Mother** should be responsible for providing: medical dental vision care insurance.
- Father** should be responsible for providing: medical dental vision care insurance.

Order that Petitioner and Respondent pay for all reasonable unreimbursed medical, dental, vision care, and health-related expenses incurred for the minor child(ren) in proportion to their respective incomes as described on the Parents' Worksheet, which shall be submitted with the Judgment and Order.

8. TESTING and COSTS: Order that if paternity is contested, Petitioner and Respondent be ordered to submit to such blood and tissue tests as may be necessary by this Court to establish paternity. And, that the other party pay all costs and expenses of this lawsuit under Arizona law, A.R.S. 25-809, including blood tests or other genetic testing; filing each child's birth certificate, attorney's fees and court costs;

9. OTHER ORDERS I AM REQUESTING (explain request here): _____

OATH OR AFFIRMATION AND VERIFICATION

I swear or affirm that the information on this document is true and correct under penalty of perjury.

Date

Signature

State of Arizona)
)
County of _____)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this _____ day of _____, 20 _____

by _____
 Name of Signer

Commission Expires

Notary Public

I swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that I mailed a copy of my Response to the other party on:

(Month, Day, Year)

(Name of Person who Mailed Response)

Name of Person Filing: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City, State, Zip Code: _____
 Telephone Number: _____
 Email Address: _____
 ATLAS Number (if applicable): _____
 Representing Self (No Attorney) or Represented by Attorney
 If Attorney, Bar Number: _____

**SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
 PINAL COUNTY**

Name of Petitioner	CASE NUMBER: DO _____ PARENTING PLAN FOR: <input type="checkbox"/> JOINT LEGAL DECISION-MAKING OR <input type="checkbox"/> SOLE LEGAL DECISION-MAKING <input type="checkbox"/> TO PETITIONER <input type="checkbox"/> TO RESPONDENT
Name of Respondent	HONORABLE: _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. MINOR CHILDREN This Plan concerns the following children common to the parents:

Name	Birth Date
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

B. LEGAL DECISION-MAKING: Select One. If you select sole legal decision-making, you have the option of also selecting restrictions on the parenting time of the other parent.

SOLE LEGAL DECISION-MAKING
 Sole legal decision-making should be granted to
 Petitioner or

Respondent

JOINT LEGAL DECISION-MAKING

Both parents will make major **educational** decisions together.

Optional: If the parents do not agree, **select one**

the final decision will be with Petitioner

the final decision will be with Respondent

the decision will be addressed as follows:

Both parents will make major **religious** decisions together.

Optional: If the parents do not agree, **select one**

the final decision will be with Petitioner

the final decision will be with Respondent

the decision will be addressed as follows:

Both parents will make major **medical** decisions together.

Optional: If the parents do not agree, **select one**

the final decision will be with Petitioner

the final decision will be with Respondent

the decision will be addressed as follows:

Both parents will make major **personal care** decisions together.

Optional: If the parents do not agree, **select one**

the final decision will be with Petitioner

the final decision will be with Respondent

the decision will be addressed as follows:

C. PARENTING TIME Write your detailed parenting plan below. Include specific times, locations, and details regarding transportation. You will have the opportunity to request supervised parenting time or no parenting time, later in this document.

1. Regular Parenting Time:

2. Summer Months:

3. School Breaks Longer Than 4 Days:

4. Three Day Weekends:(for example, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day and Memorial Day)

The parents agree that whichever of them has the child(ren) for the weekend occurring nearer in time to the holiday will spend time with the child(ren) for the holiday, OR

Explain your request:

5. Transportation: Write your procedure for exchanges of the child(ren) including location and responsibility for transportation.

6. Holiday, Birthday and Special Occasion Schedule Use the table below or the blank space to write your schedule.

Event	Even Years		Odd Years	
New Year's Eve	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent
New Year's Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent
Easter	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent
4 th of July	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent
Halloween	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent
Veteran's Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent
Thanksgiving	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent
Christmas Eve	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent
Christmas Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent

Child(ren)'s Birthday	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent
Mother's Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent
Father's Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent
Petitioner's Birthday	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent
Respondent's Birthday	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent

7. Telephone Contact with Children

Each parent may have telephone contact with the child(ren) during the child(ren)'s normal waking hours, OR

Explain your request:

8. Travel with Child(ren) (all of the following are optional)

Each parent is entitled to _____ consecutive days of vacation time per year with the child(ren). Each parent will give the other parent _____ days notice prior to the vacation.

Should either parent travel out of the area with the minor child(ren), each parent will keep the other parent informed of travel plans, address(es), and telephone numbers at which that parent and the minor child(ren) can be reached.

Neither parent shall travel with the minor child(ren) outside of Arizona for longer than _____ days without the prior written consent of the other parent or order of the court.

SUPERVISED PARENTING TIME

Supervised parenting time is in the best interest of the minor child(ren) because:

Name of the agency or person who will supervise:

NO PARENTING TIME BETWEEN CHILD(REN) AND

PETITIONER

OR

RESPONDENT

No parenting time is in the best interest of the minor child(ren) because:

D. Medical and Dental Arrangements

Both parents have the right to authorize emergency medical treatment, if needed, and the right to consult with physicians and other medical practitioners. Both parents agree to advise the other parent with physicians and other medical practitioners. Both parents agree to advise the other parent immediately of any emergency medical/dental care sought for the minor children, to cooperate on health matters concerning the children and to keep one another reasonably informed. Both parents agree to keep each other informed as to names, addresses and telephone numbers of all medical/dental care providers.

E. Other Arrangements

Each parent will inform the other parent of any change of address and/or phone number in advance OR within _____ days of the change.

Both parents will promptly inform the other parent of any emergency or other important event that involves the minor children.

Both parents will consult and agree with the other parent regarding any extra activity that affects the minor children's access to the other parent.

Each parent will consider the other parent as care-provider for the minor children before making other arrangements.

Each parent will keep all communication regarding the minor child(ren) between the parents and will not use the minor child(ren) to convey information or to set up parenting time changes.

Each parent will encourage love and respect between the minor child(ren) and the other parent and neither parent shall do anything that may hurt the other parent's relationship with the minor children.

Both parents will exert their best efforts to work cooperatively in future plans consistent with the best interests of the minor children and to amicably resolve such disputes as may arise.

If either parent is unable to follow through with the time-sharing arrangements involving the minor child(ren), that parent will notify the other parent as soon as possible.

Both parents agree that if either parent moves out of the area and returns later, they will use the most recent "Parenting Plan/Access Agreement" in place before the move.

If the parents are unable to reach a mutual agreement regarding a legal change to their parenting orders, they will request mediation through the court or a private mediator of their choice.

Obtain Written Consent or Court Order Before Moving: Notice required by ARS 25-408 shall be made by certified mail, return receipt requested, or pursuant to the Arizona rules of family law procedure. The court shall sanction a parent who, without good cause, does not comply with the notification requirements

of this law. The court may impose a sanction that will affect the legal decision-making or parenting time only in accordance with the child's best interests.

Parental Access to Records and Information Pursuant to Arizona law, unless otherwise provided by court order or law, on reasonable request both parents are entitled to have equal access to documents and other information concerning the minor child(ren)'s education and physical, mental, moral and emotional health including medical, school, police, court and other records. A person who does not comply with a reasonable request for these records shall reimburse the requesting parent for court costs and attorney fees incurred by that parent to make the other parent obey this request. A parent who attempts to restrict the release of documents or information by the custodian of the records without prior court order is subject to legal sanctions.

Notice: Do not deviate from Parenting Plan until dispute is resolved. Both parents are advised that while a dispute is being resolved, neither parent shall deviate from this Parenting Plan or act in a way that is inconsistent with the terms of this agreement.

Once this plan has been made an order of the Court, if either parent disobeys the court order related to parenting time with the children, the other parent may submit court papers to request enforcement.

SIGNATURE OF ONE OR BOTH PARENTS

Signature of Petitioner: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Respondent: _____ Date: _____

IF YOU ARE REQUESTING SOLE LEGAL DECISION MAKING, THE FORM IS COMPLETE. DO NOT SIGN SECTION F OR G.

F. STATEMENT REGARDING CONTACT WITH SEX OFFENDERS AND PERSONS CONVICTED OF DANGEROUS CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN.

According to A.R.S. §25-403.05, a child's parent or custodian must immediately notify the other parent or custodian if the person knows that a convicted or registered sex offender or someone who has been convicted of a dangerous crime against children may have access to the child.

According to A.R.S. §13-705 (P) (1), "Dangerous crime against children" means any of the following that is committed against a minor who is under fifteen years of age:

- (a) Second degree murder.
- (b) Aggravated assault resulting in serious physical injury or involving the discharge, use or threatening exhibit on of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument.
- (c) Sexual assault.
- (d) Molestation of a child.
- (e) Sexual conduct with a minor.
- (f) Commercial sexual exploitation of a minor.
- (g) Sexual exploitation of a minor.
- (h) Child abuse as prescribed in section 13-3623, subsection A, paragraph 1.
- (i) Kidnapping.
- (j) Sexual abuse.
- (k) Taking a child for the purpose of prostitution as prescribed in section 13-3212.
- (l) Child prostitution as prescribed in section 13-3212.
- (m) Involving or using minors in drug offenses.
- (n) Continuous sexual abuse of a child.
- (o) Attempted first degree murder.
- (p) Sex trafficking.
- (q) Manufacturing methamphetamine under circumstances that causes physical injury to a minor.
- (r) Bestiality as prescribed in section 13-1411, subsection A, paragraph 2.
- (s) Luring a minor for sexual exploitation.
- (t) Aggravated luring a minor for sexual exploitation.
- (u) Unlawful age misrepresentation.

The parent or custodian must provide notice by first class mail, return receipt requested, by electronic means to an electronic mail address that the recipient provided to the parent or custodian for notification purposes or by another form of communication accepted by the court.

I/We have read, understand, and agree to abide by the requirements of A.R.S. §25-403.05(B) concerning notification of other parent or custodian if someone convicted of dangerous crime against children may have access to the child.

Signature of Petitioner: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Respondent: _____

Date: _____

G. JOINT LEGAL DECISION-MAKING: If requested or agreed to by the parties, the following will apply, subject to approval by the Judge:

1. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Arizona Law (A.R.S. §25-403.03) states that joint Legal Decision-Making shall NOT be awarded if there has been “a history of significant domestic violence”.

- Domestic Violence has **not** occurred between the parties, **OR**
- Domestic Violence **has** occurred but it has not been “significant” or has been committed by both parties.* **Complete Section 3 below.**

2. DUI or DRUG CONVICTIONS:

Neither party has been convicted of driving under the influence or a drug offense within the past 12 months, **OR**

One of the parties HAS been convicted of driving under the influence or a drug offense within the past 12 months, but the parties feel Joint Legal Decision-Making is in the best interest of the children. * **Complete Section 3 below.**

3. * IF THERE HAS BEEN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR A DUI OR DRUG CONVICTION:

Explain why Joint Legal Decision-Making is still in the best interests of the children:

4. REVIEW: The parents agree to review the terms of the / this agreement and make any necessary or desired changes every _____ months from the date of this document.

5. CRITERIA. Our joint Legal Decision-Making agreement meets the criteria required by Arizona law A.R.S. §25-403.02, as listed below:

- a. The best interest of the minor children are served;
- b. Each parent’s rights and responsibilities for personal care of the minor children and for decisions in education, health care and religious training are designated in this Plan;
- c. A schedule of the physical residence of the minor children,, including holidays and school vacations is included in the Plan;
- d. The Plan includes a procedure for periodic review;
- e. The Plan includes a procedure by which proposed changes, disputes and alleged breaches may be mediated or resolved;
- f. A procedure for communicating with each other about the child, including methods and frequency.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT(S) REQUESTING JOINT LEGAL DECISION-MAKING

Signature of Petitioner: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Respondent: _____

Date: _____

***CHILD SUPPORT CALCULATOR for
Parent's Worksheet to determine Child Support Amount***



The Court Self Help website offers a Free Child Support Calculator and Fillable Forms.

◆ Simple ◆ Quick ◆ Accurate

**If you have a personal computer with Internet access,
you can access the Child Support Calculator at:**

<http://www.azcourts.gov/familylaw>

**You may also visit the Law Library at the
Pinal County Superior Court House for access and further assistance.**

Calculate Support for Parent's Worksheet

Your computer must be connected to a printer. Begin by selecting which Child Support Calculator applies to you, 2005 or 2011, then press the Tab button on your keyboard to move through the form, or click on each field with your mouse.

Enter the appropriate information in each blank field. Not every blank field needs to be completed in every case. If you are not sure whether you should complete a blank field, click on the question mark (?) next to the blank field. You will receive additional information in accordance with the [Arizona Child Support Guidelines](#).

When you have completed the Entry Form, click the "Print Worksheet" button to receive an estimate of the amount of child support the non-custodial parent may have to pay to the custodial parent for the support of their child(ren).

After clicking on "Print Worksheet" the form will automatically be filled in with the information from the Entry Form. Print the form and bring it with you at the time of filing your initial paperwork.

The Court Self Help website also offers the following fillable forms required to set up Child Support, select the "Forms" tab to make your selection:

- Child Support Order
- Post Paternity Establishment of Child Support Order
- Paternity Judgment Child Support Order

To have the Child Support amount automatically deducted from payroll, either of the below forms must be submitted:

- Income Withholding Order – May be completed by either party
- Current Employer Information – To be completed by the non-custodial parent/obligor/payer only