

How to File a Response to a Parentage Case and Set or Change Custody, Parenting Time, Support and/or Other Orders (Emergency)

Step 1	<p>Complete the following forms in blue or black ink:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local form FM-1013 Declaration in Support of Ex Parte Application for Orders <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FL-305 Temporary Emergency (Ex Parte) Orders <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FL-300 Request for Order <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FL-220 Response to Petition to Determine Parental Relationship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FL-105 Declaration Under Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) <input type="checkbox"/> MC-025 Attachment to Judicial Council Form <input type="checkbox"/> FL-311 Child Custody and Visitation (Parenting Time) Application Attachment <input type="checkbox"/> FL-150 Income and Expense Declaration, if child support is at issue
Step 2	<p>Since you are asking for emergency/temporary orders, the law requires you to give 1 copy of the forms to the other party by 10:00 am the day before you want the Judge to read them. Then you will complete form FM-1013. In some cases you may not have to give notice, if the Judge gives you special permission. <u>Important:</u> See page 2 for specific instructions about requesting to waive notice.</p>
Step 3	<p>Copies: Make <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 copies, in addition to the original.</p>
<p>Step 4</p> <p>There is a filing fee, unless the fee is waived.</p>	<p>File: File the original and copies in the Clerk’s Office of the courthouse located at: 201 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 The Clerk’s Office opens at 8:30am Monday-Friday, closing times are subject to change, visit www.scscourt.org or call 408-534-5600 for current office hours.</p> <p>If the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) is involved in your case, ask the court clerk to keep 1 filed copy to give to DCSS for you.</p> <p>Since you are asking for emergency/temporary orders and/or a fee waiver, there is a 24 to 48 hour hold on the papers. During that time, the Judge will determine if you get emergency/temporary orders and/or if the filing fee will be waived. If emergency/temporary orders are granted, these orders will be in effect until the court date.</p> <p><i>Note: The Judge may or may not grant your request for temporary orders and/or fee waiver.</i></p>
Step 5	<p>Service: After the filed copies are returned to you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep for your records—1 filed copy • Serve 1 filed copy and a blank FL-320 <i>Responsive Declaration to Request for Order</i> and <input type="checkbox"/> FL-150 on the other parent. “<i>Personal Service</i>” means: someone, NOT YOU, who is at least 18 years old must hand deliver the filed copies to the other parent. You can find a “Process Server” who will do this for a fee. <p>Service must be completed at least (check item 4 on form FL-300 after it is processed):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 5 calendar days before the court hearing (<i>if emergency orders or order shortening time is granted</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> 16 court days before the court hearing (weekends and holidays do not count) (<i>if emergency orders and order shortening time denied</i>) <p>Whoever serves must complete the attached <i>Proof of Personal Service</i> form (FL-330) and give it back to you. You must file the original and a copy of this form at the Clerk’s Office, the clerk will file stamp the copy and give it back to you. Keep this copy for your records.</p>
STEP 6	<p>Go to your court date.</p>



WHAT IS A REQUEST FOR ORDER AND WHY WOULD I FILE ONE?

A *Request for Order* is a request for the court to have a hearing so the Judge can make a court order. If you want the Judge to make a new order about custody, visitation, support or other orders in an existing case, or if you want to change an order that already exists, you would file a *Request for Order*. If you do not already have an open case, you will need to file additional paperwork to open one. See below to find out how you can get assistance through the Self-Help Center/Family Facilitator's Office.

WHAT ARE EMERGENCY/TEMPORARY ORDERS?

The Judge may grant a request to make orders immediately (within 24 to 48 hours) if a situation has occurred, or may occur, where irreparable harm would occur without the emergency orders. For example, your child is in immediate danger of being harmed or abducted.

The law requires that you, the party requesting emergency orders, give 1 copy of the forms to the other party before they are filed so the other party knows about the emergency orders you are requesting (has "notice"). This gives them a chance to respond to the court on an emergency basis to give the Judge their side of the story. You have to give the forms to the other party by 10:00 am the day before you want the Judge to review them. So if the forms are given to the other party at:

- 9:30 am on Wednesday they will be reviewed by the Judge on Thursday.
- 2:00 pm on Wednesday they will be reviewed by the Judge on Friday.

In some cases, the Judge can excuse this notice depending on facts of each case. Such cases include domestic violence restraining order applications. For cases that do not involve a domestic violence restraining order, you *must* attach a separate declaration explaining why you are requesting the court waive the requirement for giving notice to the other party. You can consult a private attorney for legal advice as to whether notice is required in your situation.

If emergency/temporary orders are made, they are in effect until your court date. The filing clerk will write this date on the front page of the *Request for Order*. If your request for emergency orders is denied at the temporary stage, you still have another chance to ask for them at your hearing,

WHAT HAPPENS IF I CANNOT GET THE OTHER PARTY SERVED?

The law requires you to have someone other than you, who is over 18, hand deliver a filed copy of the forms to the other party. If you are unable to serve the other party on time, the court will not be able to hear your request or make any court orders at the hearing. The Judge may grant a reissuance (this means a new court date is scheduled). If so, any emergency/temporary orders that were made will usually continue to be in effect until the new court date.

WHY WAS THIS CASE OPENED?

If you have a minor child/ren with a person you are not married to, that other parent has opened this case to establish parentage (that you are both the parents of your child/ren) and possibly to get orders for custody, parenting timeshare ("visitation") and child support.

WHAT IF I'M NOT SURE I AM THE CHILD'S PARENT?

This is a very important issue to resolve as quickly as possible. If you have questions, get legal advice **immediately!** You may contact the Lawyer Referral Service at (408) 971-6822 for referral to a private attorney.

WHY SHOULD I FILE A RESPONSE?

You should fill out and file the *Response* form if you want to participate in the case and have the Judge hear your side. Filing a *Response* will allow you to ask for DNA-type genetic testing or admit parentage, get a custody order and set up parenting timeshare or establish a monthly child support amount and other orders.

WHY IS ESTABLISHING PARENTAGE IMPORTANT FOR MY CHILD?

A parentage action establishes who the parents are, rights to child support and legal claims to inheritance or Social Security benefits. However, you must be sure you get your actual parentage *Judgment*, not just orders for custody and support. Opening a case also establishes which county's court will make decisions about your child.

WHAT IF THE FATHER SIGNED A VOLUNTARY DECLARATION OF PATERNITY AT THE HOSPITAL?

The *Voluntary Declaration of Paternity* becomes a parentage judgment 60 days after it is signed and cannot be cancelled after the child turns two years of age. If you want custody, parenting timeshare or child support orders, you still need to open a court case and attach a copy of the *Voluntary Declaration of Paternity*, if you have it.

HOW CAN I GET HELP?

Here are some ways to get help:

- Go to <http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Public>, then click on "Lawyer Referral services" to hire or consult with a private attorney.
- For free legal advice and information, see our "Do-It-Yourself Resources" flyer. Go to www.scscourt.org, click on "Self-Help" then "Self-Help Flyers".
- The Self Help Center/Family Law Facilitator – See our information flyer:
 - Contact us: Go to www.scscourt.org then click "**Contact the Self Help Center**". Walk-in assistance is limited to emergencies so contact us remotely first.
 - Obtain Forms: Go to www.scscourt.org then click "**Complete Forms at Home**".
 - Form Review: Emergency requests may be reviewed in person at the Restraining Order Help Center located at 201 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113, visit www.scscourt.org for current office hours.
 - Note: We **cannot** help people who have attorneys.

Superior Court, County of Santa Clara
Self Help Center/Family Law Facilitator's Office
 201 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113
 408-882-2926

BLANK FORMS

UPA RESPONSE AND EX PARTE REQUEST FOR ORDER, C/V

**THESE ARE THE DOCUMENTS
YOU HAVE TO COMPLETE,
COPY, FILE AND SERVE.**

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, state bar number, and address): Your name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ TELEPHONE NO.: _____ FAX NO. (Optional): _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): _____ ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Self-Represented	FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA STREET ADDRESS: 201 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 MAILING ADDRESS: 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME: Family Division	
PETITIONER: RESPONDENT:	CASE NUMBER:
DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF EX PARTE APPLICATION FOR ORDERS	DEPARTMENT NUMBER: FCS NUMBER:

I, the undersigned, declare:

1. I am (choose one):
 - a. attorney for Petitioner attorney for Respondent attorney for child(ren)
 - b. self-represented Petitioner self-represented Respondent
 - c. other (explain): _____

2. **The opposing party or minor children is represented by an attorney:** Yes No
 (If you checked "Yes", fill in the name, address, and telephone number of all attorneys.
 If you checked "No", fill in the other party's name address, and telephone number.)
 Party/Attorney name: _____
 Address/Telephone number: _____
 Child's attorney name and address: _____

3. **OTHER CASES:** Have the parties to this case been involved in another Family, Probate, Juvenile, or Criminal Court Case? Yes No If there has been another case, fill in the case number: _____

4. **OTHER APPLICATIONS:** I or another party have have not made previous application(s) on the same issue. Orders were were not granted on the prior application(s). Explain in your declaration.

5. **NOTICE**
 - a. **I HAVE given notice to all opposing parties and/or their attorney by the following method:**
 Personal delivery Fax Overnight Carrier First Class Mail Other: _____
 Date: _____ Time: _____ Person who received: _____
 I have received confirmation that the other party has received my papers as follows: (Check one below)
 In person/telephone (describe): _____
 Written confirmation of receipt

 - b. **I ask the Court not to require notice of the ex parte request for orders because (Check all that apply. In the space provided below in 5.c. and on any attached pages or a separate sworn declaration, you must give facts that support a request not to give notice for each box you check in 5.b. (except for Domestic Violence Prevention Act (DVPA) restraining orders):**
 This is an application for Domestic Violence Prevention Act (DVPA) restraining orders.
 This application involves a matter not requiring notice under State Rules, Rule 5.170;
 Giving notice would frustrate the purpose of the order;
 Giving notice would result in immediate and irreparable harm to the applicant or the children who may be affected by the order sought;
 Giving notice would result in immediate and irreparable damage to or loss of property subject to disposition in the case;
 The parties agreed in advance that notice will not be necessary with respect to the matter that is the subject of the request for emergency orders. Provide documentation of this agreement; and/or,

PETITIONER:	CASE NUMBER
RESPONDENT:	

INSTRUCTIONS

For more information please refer to Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara Local Rules 5 A & B and California State Rules, Rules 5.151, 5.165, 5.167, and 5.170.

This form is required in Santa Clara County, if you are asking the Judge to make immediate orders (also known as emergency or ex parte orders) without the other party being present for a hearing. This form must be completed in any case where ex parte orders or emergency orders are requested. If you are required to give notice, notice must be given before 10:00 a.m. on the court day before the Judge reviews the application, or the application will be delayed another 24 hours. Notice means providing the other side of the case, either all other attorneys or any self-represented party, with copies of any papers that you want the Judge to review and any orders that you are requesting. If you have given notice to the other side of your case, you must state the form of notice given. If you ask the Court to not require notice, you must explain why. Sometimes notice is not required, such as cases involving allegations of domestic violence or where the safety of a party or a child might be at risk if notice is given. It is up to the Judge in your case to determine whether notice will be required or not.

SECTION #1

State whether you are the Petitioner or the Respondent in the case. Once a case is filed, the parties keep the same status in the case. You do not change from the Respondent to the Petitioner by filing a new motion in the case. If you do not have an attorney, you are considered self-represented.

SECTION #2

If any other party is represented by an attorney, you must provide the Court with the attorney's name and address. If the other party is not represented by an attorney, you must provide the Court with the other party's address.

SECTION #3

It is very important to list all other cases in which you and the other party have been involved with the courts. This would include other Family Law, Probate, Juvenile, Restraining Order, Child Support, Civil, or Criminal matters. If you do not have the case number, please put "unknown" and list the county and the year of the filing, if possible.

SECTION #5a.

Unless notice is excused by the Court, you must provide notice of this application to all other parties and attorneys before you deliver a copy to the Court. When you give such notice, specify how you did it (by fax, courier, or personally, for example), who received it and at what time and on which date. Also, please explain how you know that the other side received copies of your papers and what response you were given.

SECTION #5c.

If you believe that you should not be required to give notice of this application and are asking the Court not to require notice, explain why in this section. Check as many boxes as apply. You may also write out any further explanation of your reasons for not giving notice or provide a separate declaration.

After this form is completed, attach it to your application or motion and submit them to the Court Specialist's Office at the Family Court Facility where you are dropping off your paperwork for review.

PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY OR ATTORNEY STATE BAR NUMBER: NAME: _____ FIRM NAME: _____ STREET ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____ TELEPHONE NO.: _____ FAX NO.: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ ATTORNEY FOR (name): Self-Represented	FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Santa Clara STREET ADDRESS: 201 N. First Street MAILING ADDRESS: 191 N. First Street CITY AND ZIP CODE: San Jose, CA 95113 BRANCH NAME: Family Justice Center Courthouse	
PETITIONER: RESPONDENT: OTHER PARENT/PARTY:	
TEMPORARY EMERGENCY (EX PARTE) ORDERS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child Custody <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visitation (Parenting Time) <input type="checkbox"/> Property Control <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____	
CASE NUMBER: _____	

1. **TO (name):** _____
 Petitioner Respondent Other Parent/Party Other (specify): _____

A court hearing will be held on the *Request for Order* (form FL-300) served with this order, as follows:

a. Date:	Time:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dept.: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Room: _____
b. Address of court <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> same as noted above <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify): _____			

2. **FINDINGS:** Temporary emergency (ex parte) orders are needed to:
- a. Help prevent "immediate harm to the child" under Family Code section 3064, as described in item 3a.
 - b. Help prevent immediate risk that a child will be removed from the State of California.
 - c. Help prevent immediate loss or damage to property subject to disposition in the case.
 - d. Set or change procedures for a hearing or trial.

COURT ORDERS: The temporary emergency orders expire on the date and time of the hearing in (1), unless extended by court order.

3. **CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION (PARENTING TIME)**

- a. It has been shown to the court that Petitioner Respondent Other Parent/Party (specify name): _____
 - (1) Has committed acts of domestic violence that are of recent origin or are part of a demonstrated and continuing pattern of domestic violence.
 - (2) Has committed acts of sexual abuse of the child that are of recent origin or are part of a demonstrated and continuing pattern of sexual abuse.
 - (3) Has illegal access to firearms or ammunition (including access to firearms or ammunition in violation of state or federal law, a restraining order, a protective order, or an injunction, or condition of probation or parole).
 - (4) Other (specify): _____
- b. It has been shown to the court that there is an immediate risk that the child will be removed from the State of California. *Child Abduction Prevention Orders Attachment* (form FL-341(B)) is attached to this order.

Temporary physical custody, care, and control to:

<u>Child's name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	Petitioner	Respondent	Other Party/Parent
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Continued on Attachment 3c.

THIS IS A COURT ORDER.



PETITIONER: RESPONDENT: OTHER PARENT/PARTY:	CASE NUMBER:
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d. **Visitation (Parenting Time)**
 When the court has granted temporary orders for child custody, it must consider if the best interests of the child require that visitation (parenting time) be suspended, denied, or supervised. Further, the temporary orders for custody, care, and control of the minor children in 3c are subject to the other party's or parties' rights of visitation (parenting time). The temporary orders for visitation (parenting time) are as follows:

See Attachment 3d.

e. **Travel restrictions**

- (1) The party or parties with temporary physical custody, care, and control of minor children **must not remove the minor children from the state of California unless the court allows it after a noticed hearing.**
- (2) Petitioner Respondent Other Parent/Party must not remove their minor children (*specify*):
 - (a) from the state of California.
 - (b) from the following counties (*specify*):
 - (c) other (*specify*):

- f. (1) **Jurisdiction:** This court has jurisdiction to make child custody orders in this case under the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (part 3 of the California Family Code, commencing with section 3400).
- (2) **Notice and opportunity to be heard:** The responding party was given notice and an opportunity to be heard as provided by the laws of the State of California.
- (3) **Country of habitual residence:** The country of habitual residence of the child or children is (*specify*):
 - The United States of America Other (*specify*):
- (4) **If you violate this order, you may be subject to civil or criminal penalties, or both.**

4. **PROPERTY CONTROL**

a. Petitioner Respondent Other Parent/Party is given exclusive temporary use, possession, and control of the following property that the parties own or are buying lease or rent

b. Petitioner Respondent Other Parent/Party is ordered to make the following payments on the liens and encumbrances coming due while the order is in effect:

Pay to:	For:	Amount: \$	Due date:
Pay to:	For:	Amount: \$	Due date:
Pay to:	For:	Amount: \$	Due date:
Pay to:	For:	Amount: \$	Due date:

5. All other existing orders, not in conflict with these temporary emergency orders, remain in full force and effect.

6. **OTHER ORDERS** (*specify*): Additional orders are listed in Attachment 6.

Date: _____

 JUDICIAL OFFICER OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

THIS IS A COURT ORDER.

PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY OR ATTORNEY STATE BAR NUMBER: _____ NAME: _____ FIRM NAME: _____ STREET ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____ TELEPHONE NO.: _____ FAX NO.: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ ATTORNEY FOR (name): Self-Represented	FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Santa Clara STREET ADDRESS: 201 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 MAILING ADDRESS: 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 CITY AND ZIP CODE: _____ BRANCH NAME: Family Division	
PETITIONER: _____ RESPONDENT: _____ OTHER PARENT/PARTY: _____	
REQUEST FOR ORDER <input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE <input type="checkbox"/> TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ORDERS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child Custody <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visitation (Parenting Time) <input type="checkbox"/> Spousal or Partner Support <input type="checkbox"/> Child Support <input type="checkbox"/> Property Control <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney's Fees and Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____	CASE NUMBER: _____

Note: Read form [FL-300-INFO](#) for information about how to complete this form. To ask to change or end an order that was granted in a Restraining Order After Hearing (form DV-130 or JV-255), read form [FL-300-INFO](#) and form [DV-300-INFO](#)

NOTICE OF HEARING

1. TO (name): _____
 Petitioner Respondent Other Parent/Party Other (specify): _____

2. **A COURT HEARING WILL BE HELD AS FOLLOWS:**

a. Date: _____ Time: _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dept.: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Room.: _____ b. Address of court <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> same as noted above <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify): _____
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3. **WARNING to the person served with the Request for Order:** The court may make the requested orders without you if you do not file a *Responsive Declaration to Request for Order* (form FL-320), serve a copy on the other parties at least nine court days before the hearing (unless the court has ordered a shorter period of time), and appear at the hearing. (See form *FL-320-INFO* for more information.)

COURT ORDER
(FOR COURT USE ONLY)

It is ordered that:

4. Time for service until the hearing is shortened. Service must be on or before (date): 5 days before hearing date
5. A *Responsive Declaration to Request for Order* (form FL-320) must be served on or before (date): 2 days before hearing date
6. The parties must attend an appointment for child custody mediation or child custody recommending counseling as follows (specify date, time, and location): _____
7. The orders in *Temporary Emergency (Ex Parte) Orders* (form FL-305) apply to this proceeding and must be personally served with all documents filed with this *Request for Order*.
8. Other (specify): _____

Date: _____ _____ JUDICIAL OFFICER

PETITIONER: RESPONDENT: OTHER PARENT/PARTY:	CASE NUMBER:
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2. d. This is a change from the current order for child custody visitation (parenting time).
- (1) The order for legal or physical custody was filed on (date): _____ . The court ordered (specify):
- (2) The visitation (parenting time) order was filed on (date): _____ . The court ordered (specify):

[Attachment 2d.](#)

3. CHILD SUPPORT

(Note: An earnings assignment may be issued. See *Income Withholding for Support* (form [FL-195](#))

a. I request that the court order child support as follows:

Child's name and age	I request support for each child <u>Monthly amount (\$) requested</u> based on the child support guideline. (if not by guideline)

[Attachment 3a.](#)

b. I want to change a current court order for child support filed on (date):
The court ordered child support as follows (specify):

c. I have completed and filed with this *Request for Order* a current *Income and Expense Declaration* (form [FL-150](#)) or I filed a current *Financial Statement (Simplified)* (form [FL-155](#)) because I meet the requirements to file form FL-155.

d. The court should make or change the support orders because (specify): [Attachment 3d.](#)

4. SPOUSAL OR DOMESTIC PARTNER SUPPORT

(Note: An *Earnings Assignment Order for Spousal or Partner Support* (form [FL-435](#)) may be issued.)

a. Amount requested (monthly): \$

b. I want the court to change end the current support order filed on (date):
The court ordered \$ _____ per month for support.

c. This request is to modify (change) spousal or partner support after entry of a judgment.
I have completed and attached *Spousal or Partner Support Declaration Attachment* (form [FL-157](#)) or a declaration that addresses the same factors covered in form FL-157.

d. I have completed and filed a current *Income and Expense Declaration* (form [FL-150](#)) in support of my request.

e. The court should make, change, or end the support orders because (specify): [Attachment 4e.](#)

PETITIONER: RESPONDENT: OTHER PARENT/PARTY:	CASE NUMBER:
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5. PROPERTY CONTROL I request temporary emergency orders
 a. The petitioner respondent other parent/party be given exclusive temporary use, possession, and control of the following property that we own or are buying lease or rent (*specify*):

b. The petitioner respondent other parent/party be ordered to make the following payments on debts and liens coming due while the order is in effect:
 Pay to: _____ For: _____ Amount: \$ _____ Due date: _____
 Pay to: _____ For: _____ Amount: \$ _____ Due date: _____
 Pay to: _____ For: _____ Amount: \$ _____ Due date: _____
 Pay to: _____ For: _____ Amount: \$ _____ Due date: _____

c. This is a change from the current order for property control filed on (*date*):
 d. Specify in [Attachment 5d](#) the reasons why the court should make or change the property control orders.

6. ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS
 I request attorney's fees and costs, which total (*specify amount*): \$ _____ . I filed the following to support my request:
 a. A current *Income and Expense Declaration* (form [FL-150](#)).
 b. A *Request for Attorney's Fees and Costs Attachment* (form [FL-319](#)) or a declaration that addresses the factors covered in that form.
 c. A *Supporting Declaration for Attorney's Fees and Costs Attachment* (form [FL-158](#)) or a declaration that addresses the factors covered in that form.

7. OTHER ORDERS REQUESTED (*specify*): [Attachment 7.](#)

8. TIME FOR SERVICE / TIME UNTIL HEARING I urgently need:
 a. To serve the *Request for Order* no less than (*number*): **5** court days before the hearing.
 b. The hearing date and service of the *Request for Order* to be sooner.
 c. I need the order because (*specify*): [Attachment 8.](#)

9. FACTS TO SUPPORT the orders I request are listed below. The facts that I write in support and attach to this request cannot be longer than 10 pages, unless the court gives me permission. [Attachment 9.](#)

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information provided in this form and all attachments is true and correct.

Date: _____
 _____ (TYPE OR PRINT NAME) _____ (SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT)



Requests for Accommodations

Assistive listening systems, computer-assisted real-time captioning, or sign language interpreter services are available if you ask at least five days before the proceeding. Contact the clerk's office or go to courts.ca.gov/forms for *Disability Accommodations Request* (form [MC-410](#)). (Civ. Code, § 54.8.)

PETITIONER: RESPONDENT: OTHER PARENT/PARTY:	CASE NUMBER:
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CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION (PARENTING TIME) APPLICATION ATTACHMENT

—This is not a court order—

TO Petition Response Request for Order Responsive Declaration to Request for Order
 Other (specify):

This section is for information only and is not a part of your request for orders:

California's public policies and law on child custody and visitation include that:

- In general, children should have frequent and continuing contact with their parents, and parents should be encouraged to share the responsibility of raising their children, except when domestic abuse has happened or contact with a parent is not in the best interests of the children.
- When making any orders about physical and legal custody and visitation (parenting time), the court must consider the best interests of the child, which primarily include the health, safety, and welfare of the child.
- If a parent has been abusive, judges use laws to help protect children when deciding to make orders about child custody and visitation (parenting time). A judge may deny an abusive parent custody or unsupervised visitation with a child.
- Children have the right to be safe and free from abuse.
- A child's exposure to domestic violence and domestic violence committed where a child lives are detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of the child.
- For more information, read selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/child-custody#best-interest and selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/domestic-violence-child-custody

Complete items 1 through 13 that apply to your request for orders.

1. **Minor Children** [Attachment 1.](#)

<u>Child's name</u>	<u>Birthdate</u>	<u>Age</u>
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2. **Custody** of the minor children is requested as follows:

	Petitioner	Respondent	Joint	Other Parent/Party
a. Physical custody of children to..... <i>(The person with whom the child will regularly live)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Legal custody of children to <i>(The person who decides about the child's health, education, and welfare)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Note: To ask the court for joint legal custody orders that specify when the parents must agree before making decisions (for example, before choosing or changing the children's school, doctor, or religious or school activities), use *Joint Legal Custody Attachment* (form [FL-341\(E\)](#)) or a document that includes the same content as form FL-341(E).

To learn about physical and legal custody, go to selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/child-custody.

c. There are allegations of a history of abuse or substance abuse in this case. *(You must complete item 5.)*
d. Other (specify):

3. **Visitation (Parenting Time)** I request that the court order (check one):

- a. Reasonable right of visitation (parenting time) to the party in item 2a without physical custody, including but not limited to, virtual visitation. **(Not appropriate in cases involving domestic violence and substance abuse).**
- b. Visitation (parenting time) as described in the attached -page document dated (specify date):
- c. The visitation schedule in item 4 that includes in-person, virtual, other visitation.
- d. Supervised visitation. *(You must complete item 6.)*
- e. No visitation (parenting time) to the person without physical custody for the reasons described in item 13.

Note: Unless specifically ordered, a child's holiday schedule order has priority over the regular parenting time.



PETITIONER: RESPONDENT: OTHER PARENT/PARTY:	CASE NUMBER:
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4. **Petitioner's** **Respondent's** **Other Parent's/Party's** visitation (parenting time) will be (check all that apply):
 a. **In person**, as follows (Specify start and ending date and time. If applicable, check "start of" OR "after school"):

(1) **Weekends starting** (date):

(Note: The first weekend of the month is the first weekend with a Saturday.)

<u>Weekend</u>	<u>Day(s)</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Start of (or After) School (if applicable)</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1st	from _____ to _____	at _____ at _____	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m. <input type="checkbox"/> p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> start of <input type="checkbox"/> after
<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd	from _____ to _____	at _____ at _____	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m. <input type="checkbox"/> p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> start of <input type="checkbox"/> after
<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd	from _____ to _____	at _____ at _____	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m. <input type="checkbox"/> p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> start of <input type="checkbox"/> after
<input type="checkbox"/> 4th	from _____ to _____	at _____ at _____	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m. <input type="checkbox"/> p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> start of <input type="checkbox"/> after
<input type="checkbox"/> 5th	from _____ to _____	at _____ at _____	<input type="checkbox"/> a.m. <input type="checkbox"/> p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> start of <input type="checkbox"/> after

(a) The parties will alternate the fifth weekends, with the petitioner respondent other parent/party having the initial fifth weekend, starting (date):

(b) The petitioner respondent other parent/party will have the fifth weekend in odd even numbered months.

(2) **Alternate weekends starting** (date):

(Specify day(s) from _____ at _____
and times): to _____ at _____

(3) **Weekdays starting** (date):

(Specify day(s) from _____ at _____
and times): to _____ at _____

(4) Other visitation (parenting time) days and restrictions are [listed in Attachment 4a\(4\)](#)
 as follows:

b. **Virtual visitation**

I ask that the court order virtual visitation as described [in Attachment 4b.](#) below:
Virtual visitation means using audiovisual electronic technology (like a smartphone, tablet, smart watch, or computer) for a parent and a child to see and hear each other. Learn more about how to have safe virtual visits at selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/child-custody/virtual-visitaton.

c. **Other ways that visitation (parenting time) can happen** that are in the best interests of the child (specify):



PETITIONER: RESPONDENT: OTHER PARENT/PARTY:	CASE NUMBER:
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5. **Child custody and visitation when there are allegations of a history of abuse or substance abuse**

a. **Allegations**

- (1) Petitioner Respondent Other parent/party is (or are) alleged to have a history of abuse against any of the following persons: a child, the other parent, their current spouse, or the person they live with or are dating or engaged to.
- (2) Petitioner Respondent Other parent/party is (or are) alleged to have the habitual or continual illegal use of controlled substances, or the habitual or continual abuse of alcohol, or the habitual or continual abuse of prescribed controlled substances.

b. **Child custody**

- (1) I ask that the court NOT order sole or joint custody of the minor child to the party or parties in 5a.
- (2) Even though there are allegations, I ask that the court make the child custody orders in item 4.
(Write the reasons why you think it would be in the best interests of the child that the party or parties be granted child custody, even though there are allegations against them of a history of abuse or substance abuse. The orders that you request about child custody or visitation must also be specific as to time, day, place, and manner of transfer (exchange) of the child, as Family Code sections 3011(a)(5)(A) and 6323(c) require.)
 Below: [Attachment 5b\(2\)](#) Other (specify):

c. **Visitation (Parenting Time)**

- (1) I ask that the court order supervised visitation as specified in item 6.
- (2) I ask that the court order unsupervised visitation to the party or parties as specified in item 4.
 - (A) Even though there are allegations of a history of abuse or substance abuse, I request that the court order unsupervised visitation to (specify): petitioner respondent other parent/party.
 - (B) The reasons why the court should make the orders are
(Write the reasons why you think it would be in the best interests of the child that the party or parties be granted unsupervised visitation (parenting time) even though there are allegations against them of a history of abuse or substance abuse. The orders that you request about child custody or visitation must also be specific as to time, day, place, and manner of transfer (exchange) of the child, as Family Code sections 3011(a)(5)(A) and 6323(c) require.)
 Below: [In Attachment 5c\(2\)\(B\)](#) Other (specify):

(3) Other (specify):



PETITIONER: RESPONDENT: OTHER PARENT/PARTY:	CASE NUMBER:
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8. **Travel with children** The petitioner respondent other parent/party **must** have written permission from the other parent or party, or a court order, to take the children out of
- a. the state of California.
 - b. the following counties (*specify*): South Bay Counties: Santa Clara, Alameda, Monterey, Marin, Stanislaus, Merced, Contra Costa, San Mateo, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Benito & Santa Cruz
 - c. other places (*specify*):
9. **Child abduction prevention.** There is a risk that one of the parties will take the children out of California without the other party's permission. I request the orders set out on attached [form FL-312](#).
10. **Child custody mediation**
 I request an order for the parties to go to child custody mediation or child custody recommending counseling (*specify date, time, and location, if applicable*): Family Court Services
 www.scscourt.org
 201 N. First Street
 San Jose, CA 95113
 Note: Parents with a family court case who do not agree about child custody or visitation are required to attend mediation to try to develop a parenting plan that is in the best interest of their child. A party who alleges domestic violence in a written declaration under penalty of perjury or who is protected by a protective order may ask the mediator or child custody recommending counselor to meet with the parties separately and at separate times. A court order for separate sessions is not required.
11. **Children's holiday schedule.** I request the holiday and vacation schedule set out below [on form FL-341\(C\)](#)
12. **Additional custody provisions.** I request the additional orders for custody set out below [on form FL-341\(D\)](#)
13. **Other (*specify*):**

SHORT TITLE:

CASE NUMBER:

ATTACHMENT (Number) : 10
(This Attachment may be used with any Judicial Council form.)

Page _____ **of** _____
(Add pages as required)

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(If the item that this Attachment concerns is made under penalty of perjury, all statements in this Attachment are made under penalty of perjury.)

PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY OR ATTORNEY STATE BAR NUMBER: NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: E-MAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name): Self-Represented	FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Santa Clara STREET ADDRESS: 201 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 MAILING ADDRESS: 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME: Family Justice Center Courthouse	
PETITIONER: RESPONDENT:	
RESPONSE TO PETITION TO DETERMINE PARENTAL RELATIONSHIP	CASE NUMBER:

1. The petitioner
 - a. is a parent of the children in item 2.
 - b. is not a parent of the children in item 2.
 - c. is the child or the child's personal representative (specify court and date of appointment):
 - d. Other (specify):

2. The children are

a. <u>Child's name</u>	<u>Birthdate</u>	<u>Age</u>
------------------------	------------------	------------

 b. a child who is not yet born

3. The respondent
 - a. lives in the state of California.
 - b. was in California when the children listed in item 2 were conceived.
 - c. does not live in the state of California.
 - d. was not in California when the children listed in item 2 were conceived.
 - e. Other (specify):

4. The children
 - a. live or are found in this county.
 - b. are children of a parent who is deceased, and proceedings for administration of the estate have been or could be started in this county.

5. The respondent is
 - a. the parent of the children listed in item 2 above.
 - b. not certain if the respondent is the parent of the children listed in item 2 above.
 - c. not the parent of the children listed in item 2 above.
 - d. Other (specify):

6. Additional statements
 - a. Parentage has been determined by a voluntary declaration of parentage or paternity. (Attach a copy if available.)
 - b. Parentage has been established in another case governmental child support Other (specify):
 - c. Public assistance is being provided to the children.

7. A completed Declaration Under Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) (form FL-105) is attached.

PETITIONER:	CASE NUMBER:
RESPONDENT:	

The respondent asks that the court make the determinations listed below.

8. PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP (check all that apply):

- a. Respondent Petitioner is the parent of the children listed in item 2.
- b. Respondent Petitioner is not the parent of the children listed in item 2.
- c. Respondent requests genetic testing to determine whether the Petitioner Respondent is the parent of the children listed in item 2.

9. CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION (PARENTING TIME)

- | | Petitioner | Respondent | Joint | Other |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Legal custody of children to | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Physical custody of children to | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Child visitation (parenting time) be granted to | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| As requested in <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> attached to FL-300 filed concurrently
<input type="checkbox"/> form FL-311 <input type="checkbox"/> form FL-312 <input type="checkbox"/> form FL-341(C)
<input type="checkbox"/> form FL-341(D) <input type="checkbox"/> form FL-341(E) <input type="checkbox"/> Attachment 6c(1) | | | | |
| d. The facts in support of the requested custody and visitation (parenting time) orders are (specify):
<input type="checkbox"/> Contained in the attached declaration. | | | | |

10. REASONABLE EXPENSES OF PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:

- | | Petitioner | Respondent | Joint |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Reasonable expenses of pregnancy and birth to be paid by as follows: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

11. FEES AND COSTS OF LITIGATION

- | | Petitioner | Respondent | Joint |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Attorney fees to be paid by | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Expert fees, guardian ad litem fees, and other costs of the action or pretrial proceedings to be paid by | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

12. NAME CHANGE

- Children's names be changed, according to Family Code section 7638, as follows (specify old and new names):

13. OTHER ORDERS REQUESTED (specify):

14. CHILD SUPPORT

The court may make orders for support of the children and issue an earnings assignment without further notice to either party.

I have read the restraining order on the back of the Summons (FL-210) and I understand it applies to me.

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

Date:

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)	(SIGNATURE OF RESPONDENT)
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NOTICE: If you have a child from this relationship, the court is required to order child support based upon the income of both parents. Support normally continues until the child is 18. You should supply the court with information about your finances. Otherwise, the child support order will be based upon information supplied by the other parent. Any party required to pay child support must pay interest on overdue amounts at the "legal" rate, which is currently 10 percent.

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name): Self-Represented	STATE BAR NUMBER: FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Santa Clara STREET ADDRESS: 201 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 MAILING ADDRESS: 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME: Family Justice Center Courthouse	
(This section applies to cases other than probate guardianships.) PETITIONER: RESPONDENT: OTHER PARTY: CHILD'S NAME (Juvenile cases only):	
(This section applies only to probate guardianship cases.) GUARDIANSHIP OF (name):	
Minor	
DECLARATION UNDER UNIFORM CHILD CUSTODY JURISDICTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT (UCCJEA)	

CASE NUMBER:

1. I am (check one): a party to this proceeding to determine custody of a child the authorized representative of the agency, which is a party to this proceeding to determine custody of a child.
2. There are (specify number): _____ minor children who are subject to this proceeding, as follows (list oldest child first):

Full Name	Date of birth	Place of birth (city and state)
a.		
b.		
c.		
d.		

Check this box if you need to list more children. (On form [MC-020](#) or a separate piece of paper, write "FL-105, Attachment 2, Additional Children" at the top, provide all requested information for each additional child, and attach to this form.)

3. a. Check this box if there is only one child or if all of the children listed in item 2 have lived together for the past five years. (Provide the current address of the child listed in item 2a and their residence history for the past five years. If the current address is confidential under Family Code section 3429, check the box and provide only the state of residence.)

Dates of residence (Month/Year)		Residence (City, State)	Person child lived with and complete current address	Relationship
From:	To present	<input type="checkbox"/> Confidential (list state only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Confidential (list state only)	
From:	To:			
From:	To:			
From:	To:			
From:	To:			

Additional addresses are listed on Attachment 3a. (Form [MC-020](#) may be used for this purpose.)

- b. Check this box if there is more than one child and all the children have not lived together for the past five years. (Attach form FL-105(A)/GC-120(A) and list each other child's current address and their residence history for the past five years.)

PROOF OF SERVICE

EX PARTE REQUEST FOR ORDER

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SERVER
(SEE INSTRUCTIONS FOR DETAILS)**

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY OR GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY (under Family Code, §§ 17400, 17406) <i>(Name, State Bar number, and address):</i> TELEPHONE NO.: _____ FAX NO.: _____ ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Self-Represented	FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Santa Clara STREET ADDRESS: 201 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 MAILING ADDRESS: 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:	
PETITIONER/PLAINTIFF: RESPONDENT/DEFENDANT: OTHER PARENT/PARTY:	CASE NUMBER: (If applicable, provide): HEARING DATE: HEARING TIME: DEPT.:
PROOF OF PERSONAL SERVICE	

1. I am at least 18 years old, not a party to this action, and not a protected person listed in any of the orders.
2. Person served (*name*):
3. I served copies of the following documents (*specify*):
FILED COPIES OF: Declaration in Support of Ex Parte Application; Request for Order; Temporary Emergency (Ex Parte) Orders; Child Custody and Visitation Application Attachment Response to Petition to Determine Parental Relationship; UCCJEA Blank Responsive Declaration to Request for Order, ADR Options
4. By personally delivering copies to the person served, as follows:
 - a. Date:
 - b. Time:
 - c. Address:
5. I am

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not a registered California process server. b. <input type="checkbox"/> a registered California process server. c. <input type="checkbox"/> an employee or independent contractor of a registered California process server. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> d. <input type="checkbox"/> exempt from registration under Business & Profession Code section 22350(b). e. <input type="checkbox"/> a California sheriff or marshal.
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6. My name, address, and telephone number, and, if applicable, county of registration and number (*specify*):
7. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.
8. I am a California sheriff or marshal and I certify that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date:

_____ _____
 (TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF PERSON WHO SERVED THE PAPERS) (SIGNATURE OF PERSON WHO SERVED THE PAPERS)

RESPONSIVE FORMS

EX PARTE REQUEST FOR ORDER

LEAVE BLANK

**TO BE ATTACHED TO THE
OTHER PARTY'S COPY FOR
SERVICE**

PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY OR ATTORNEY STATE BAR NUMBER: NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name): Self-Represented	FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Santa Clara STREET ADDRESS: 201 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 MAILING ADDRESS: 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME: Family Justice Center Courthouse	
PETITIONER: RESPONDENT: OTHER PARENT/PARTY:	
RESPONSIVE DECLARATION TO REQUEST FOR ORDER	
HEARING DATE: TIME: DEPARTMENT OR ROOM:	CASE NUMBER:

Read *Information Sheet: Responsive Declaration to Request for Order* (form [FL-320-INFO](#)) for more information about this form.

1. RESTRAINING ORDER INFORMATION
 - a. No domestic violence restraining/protective orders are now in effect between the parties in this case.
 - b. I agree that one or more domestic violence restraining/protective orders are now in effect between the parties in this case.

2. CHILD CUSTODY
 VISITATION (PARENTING TIME)
 - a. I consent to the order requested for child custody (legal and physical custody).
 - b. I consent to the order requested for visitation (parenting time).
 - c. I do not consent to the order requested for child custody visitation (parenting time)
 but I consent to the following order:

3. CHILD SUPPORT
 - a. I have completed and filed a current *Income and Expense Declaration* (form [FL-150](#)) or, if eligible, a current *Financial Statement (Simplified)* (form FL-155) to support my responsive declaration.
 - b. I consent to the order requested.
 - c. I consent to guideline support.
 - d. I do not consent to the order requested but I consent to the following order:

4. SPOUSAL OR DOMESTIC PARTNER SUPPORT
 - a. I have completed and filed a current *Income and Expense Declaration* (form [FL-150](#)) to support my responsive declaration.
 - b. I consent to the order requested.
 - c. I do not consent to the order requested but I consent to the following order:

PETITIONER: RESPONDENT: OTHER PARENT/PARTY:	CASE NUMBER:
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5. PROPERTY CONTROL

- a. I consent to the order requested.
- b. I do not consent to the order requested but I consent to the following order:

6. ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS

- a. I have completed and filed a current *Income and Expense Declaration* (form [FL-150](#)) to support my responsive declaration.
- b. I have completed and filed with this form a *Supporting Declaration for Attorney's Fees and Costs Attachment* (form [FL-158](#)) or a declaration that addresses the factors covered in that form.
- c. I consent to the order requested.
- d. I do not consent to the order requested but I consent to the following order:

7. OTHER ORDERS REQUESTED

- a. I consent to the order requested.
- b. I do not consent to the order requested but I consent to the following order:

8. TIME FOR SERVICE / TIME UNTIL HEARING

- a. I consent to the order requested.
- b. I do not consent to the order requested but I consent to the following order:

9. FACTS TO SUPPORT my responsive declaration are listed below. The facts that I write and attach to this form cannot be longer than 10 pages, unless the court gives me permission. [Attachment 10.](#)

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information provided in this form and all attachments is true and correct.

Date:

_____ (TYPE OR PRINT NAME)



_____ (SIGNATURE OF DECLARANT)

Choices for Solving Legal Problems without a Court Hearing

FAMILY COURT
Superior Court, Santa Clara County

Alternate Dispute Resolution is a CHOICE in Family Law Cases

“Alternative Dispute Resolution” (ADR) is a term used for ways you can solve problems without going to a formal Court hearing with a Judge. Some choices are explained below. ADR can save you time *and* money. With ADR you are likely to feel better about the legal process and how your case is settled. You can often solve Family Law issues such as child custody, visitation, support, and property division by agreement instead of by going to a Court hearing.

Except for custody and visitation mediation, ADR services are voluntary and can only be a part of your case resolution plan if both parties choose to use these services.

All court-connected ADR providers that are a part of your case resolution plan have been trained to assess and handle cases that may have domestic violence issues. Ask about separate sessions if meeting separately from the other party will make you feel safer.

TYPES OF RESOLUTION PROCESSES:

Custody/Visitation Mediation - *Free*

California law says that if parents do not agree about custody and visitation issues they must try to settle the issues by going to Mediation. Mediation is a way for parents to meet with someone who does not work for either side to try to agree about their children. Mediation can be done through the Court at Family Court Services at no cost or through a private mediator you hire on your own. Mediation through Family Court Services in Santa Clara County is a confidential process - the mediator will not go to a Court hearing to tell the Judge what you or the other parent said in mediation. The mediator can help you and the other parent talk about and decide issues such as how much time the child will spend with each parent, how to best exchange the child, and other custody or visitation issues.

Orientation and Mediation may be scheduled by calling (408) 534-5760. Parties must attend Orientation prior to Mediation if they have never been to Mediation before. Orientation may be done online at http://www.sccscourt.org/court_divisions/family/fcs/fcs_orientation.shtml or in person by calling (408) 534-5760 to schedule Orientation. Orientation is available in English and Spanish.

Settlement Officer Conference (SOC) - *Free*

The Court has a full-time Settlement Officer, whose job is to help parties settle their family law cases for free. The Settlement Officer Conference (SOC) focuses on resolving **property and support issues**. The conference works best when parties have given each other information in advance about their finances and how they think things should be settled. An SOC can be set at any time after you have served the Preliminary Declarations of Disclosure by calling (408) 534-5710.

Mediation

Mediation is a way to reach an agreement with the help of a person who is specially trained to help resolve disagreements. The mediator can help the parties talk with each other and explore options for settlement. Mediators are usually attorneys hired by the parties, but they are not the attorney for either side. A mediator can help resolve one issue or the entire case. Mediation is private and confidential. Anything that is said or written in the mediation process is confidential. The mediator may not talk about the case to the Court or anyone else unless the parties both agree. Agreements reached in mediation can become court orders if both parties agree.

Visit the Court's website for a list of Family ADR providers:
http://www.scscourt.org/court_divisions/family/adr/family_adr_search.asp

Personal Property Arbitration - Free

A volunteer attorney will decide how to divide your **personal property**, such as furniture. Both parties must agree to the arbitration or it must be ordered by the Court. The arbitrator writes up a decision after each side presents his or her case. The arbitrations are held at the Family Court and may be scheduled by calling (408) 534-5710.

Collaborative Law

In the collaborative practice process, each party has a private attorney and each makes a commitment to resolve any disagreements without going to court. The parties and their attorneys have a series of private meetings to create solutions based on the needs of the parties. All parties and their attorneys agree that if the parties cannot settle their case and/or if either party chooses to withdraw from the process and go to court, the collaborative attorneys cannot represent these parties in court.

Visit the Court's website for a list of Family ADR and Collaborative Law providers:
http://www.scscourt.org/court_divisions/family/adr/family_adr_search.asp

You may also contact the Santa Clara County Bar Association at (408-287-2557 or www.sccba.com) and ask for names of attorneys from the Collaborative Law panel.

Arbitration and Private Judging

An arbitrator, usually an attorney hired by the parties, makes a decision after the hearing information is presented by both parties. The arbitrator prepares a written decision which is sent to both parties and the Court. The parties decide ahead of time whether the arbitration is binding or not. "Binding" means that the arbitrator's decision will be final. "Non-binding" means that the parties do not have to follow the arbitrator's decision.

Private judging, like arbitration, involves choosing a person, usually an attorney, to act as either a settlement or trial judge or both. The decision of the private judge is filed with the Court as a Court order. If you want to consider private judging, both sides must agree on the private judge. Please be sure that you are clear on the experience and qualifications of the provider as well as the costs and services that he or she will provide.

Young Children's Settlement Team-Free

If you have a child aged 5 or under and have custody or visitation disputes, you may request to participate in the Young Children's Settlement Team Project. This brings together a team of volunteer mental health professionals and volunteer attorneys who work with the parties at the courthouse to attempt to resolve any custody or visitation issues. The process is confidential. If agreements are reached, they are reviewed by the parties and counsel, as well as the Court. If there are still issues left, a JCC is held with the All Purpose Judge.

The Court does not think any form of ADR or any ADR provider is better than another and does not guarantee how your case will work out.