

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF _____ COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

_____, Petitioner, *
v. * Civil Action Case Number:
_____, Respondent. * _____
*

PETITION FOR LEGITIMATION AND CUSTODY/VISITATION

My name is _____ and I
am representing myself in this Petition for Legitimation and Custody/Visitation. In
support of my case, I state as follows:

1.

The Respondent is . [Check only one of the following, either (a), (b), or (c).]

- (a) the mother of my child(ren)
- (b) the legal guardian of my child(ren)
- (c) the legal custodian of my child(ren).

2.

Jurisdiction and Venue: [Check those that apply]

- (a) The Respondent is a resident of _____ County, Georgia.
- (b) The Respondent is a resident of _____ County, Georgia, and
I live in _____ County. The Respondent has acknowledged service of
process and consented to the jurisdiction and venue of this Court.
- (c) The Respondent resides in the State of _____,
but I am a resident of _____ County and my child(ren) reside(s) in
Georgia.

(d) The Respondent resides in the State of _____, but my child(ren) reside(s) in _____ County.

(e) The Respondent's whereabouts are unknown to me, but I am a resident of _____ County and my child(ren) reside in Georgia. I am filing my Motion for Service by Publication and Affidavit of Diligent Search with this Petition, and incorporate them here by reference.

(f) The Respondent's whereabouts are unknown to me, but my child(ren) reside(s) in _____ County. I am filing my Motion for Service by Publication and Affidavit of Diligent Search with this Petition, and incorporate them here by reference.

(g) The Respondent Mother is deceased, but my child(ren) or I reside(s) in _____ County.

3.

Service of Process: The Respondent shall be served as provided under OCGA § 9-11-4, in the following manner: [Check those that apply]

(a) The Respondent may be served by the Sheriff's Department at the Respondent's residence/work address, which is: _____

(b) The Respondent has acknowledged service of process. I am filing the Acknowledgment of Service (which has been signed by the Respondent) with this Petition.

(c) The Respondent's whereabouts are unknown to me. I am filing my Motion for Service by Publication and Affidavit of Diligent Search with this Petition. The Respondent shall be served by publication as provided under OCGA § 9-11-4(e)(1) for those who cannot be found within the State of Georgia. To the best of my knowledge, the Respondent's last known address is:

(d) The Respondent Mother is deceased.

4.

Minor Child(ren): I am the father of minor child(ren), listed below: [Include Year of Birth Only.]

Name of Child	Male/Female	Year of Birth

The minor child(ren) was/were born out of wedlock.

5.

Child(ren)'s Current Residence: The minor child(ren) currently live at _____ in _____ County, with the following adult: _____. The child(ren) has/have lived at this address since approximately _____.

6.

Child(ren)'s Past Residences: During the past five years, the child(ren) has/have lived at the following addresses:

Dates at Address

Address

7.

Adults with Whom Child(ren) Has/Have Lived: During the past five years, the child(ren) has/have lived with the following adults:

Name of Person

Person's Address

8.

Other Court Cases About Child(ren): [Check only one of the following, either (a) or (b).]

(a) I have never participated as a party or a witness or in any other capacity in any other litigation concerning the custody of or visitation with the minor child(ren) in this or any other state.

(b) I have participated in other litigation concerning the custody of the minor child(ren) in Georgia or another state. The court, case number and date of any order concerning custody or visitation under the other litigation are as follows:

9.

Other Proceedings That Could Affect Custody or Visitation in This Case: [Check only one of the following, either (a) or (b).]

(a) I do not have any information of any proceeding that could affect this case, including proceedings for enforcement and proceedings relating to family violence, protective orders, termination of parental rights, and adoptions in this or any other state.

(b) I have information about a proceeding that could affect this case, including proceedings for enforcement and proceedings relating to family violence, protective orders, termination of parental rights, or adoptions in this or another state. The court, the case number and the nature of the proceeding are as follows:

10.

Others Claiming Custody or Visitation Rights: [Check only one of these, either (a) or (b).]

(a) I do not know of any person who is not a party to this case, who has physical custody of the child(ren) or who claims to have custody or visitation rights with respect to the child(ren).

(b) I know of someone who is not a party to this case, who has physical custody of the child(ren) or who claims to have custody or visitation rights with respect to the child(ren). The names and present addresses of the person(s) are:

11.

I want to legitimate my relationship with the child(ren).

12.

I want to change the name of the child(ren) [complete only in applicable]

from: _____ to: _____

from: _____ to: _____

from: _____ to: _____

13.

I seek to have my name entered as the father on the birth record of each child.

14.

Child Custody and Visitation:

(a) I should be awarded the following: [Check all that apply]

Sole legal custody [OR]

Joint legal custody

Sole physical custody [OR]

Joint physical custody

Reasonable visitation as follows:

(b) I believe that the custody and visitation arrangement set forth in the attached Permanent Parenting Plan is in the best interests of the child(ren).

15.

Child Support: [Check only one of these, either (a), (b), (c) or (d).]

(a) The Respondent has income or is capable of earning sufficient money to support the minor child(ren).

(b) I have income or I am capable of earning sufficient money to support the minor child(ren).

(c) I am not asking the Court to address this issue in this case.

(d) The issue of child support cannot be decided in this action because the Petition for Legitimation and Custody/Visitation does not have personal jurisdiction over the Respondent.

16.

Health Insurance for Child(ren): [Check only one of these, either (a), (b), (c) or (d).]

(a) The Respondent should be ordered to maintain a policy for medical, dental and hospitalization insurance for the minor child(ren).

(b) I already provide health insurance for the child(ren).

(c) I am not asking the Court to address this issue in this case.

(d) The issue of health insurance cannot be decided in this action because the Court does not have personal jurisdiction over the Respondent.

FOR THESE REASONS, I REQUEST THE FOLLOWING RELIEF: [Check all that apply.]

(a) That the Court enter an Order legitimating my relationship with the child(ren) so that the child(ren) and I will be capable of inheriting from each other in the same manner as if the child(ren) had been born in wedlock;

(b) That the name of the child(ren) be changed

from: _____ to: _____

from: _____ to: _____

from: _____ to: _____

(c) That the Department of Vital Statistics be ordered and directed to amend the birth records of each child and reissue a birth certificate showing me as the father and changing each child's name as requested above;

(d) That the custody and visitation for the child(ren) be ordered according to Paragraph 14;

(e) That child support and health insurance, medical expenses and life insurance for the support of the child(ren) be ordered according to Paragraphs 15 and 16;

(f) That Respondent be served with notice of this Petition as provided by law;

(g) That a Rule Nisi be scheduled by the Court, to decide on the relief I have requested;

(h) That the Court order any and all other relief that the Court finds appropriate.

This ___ day of _____, 20___

Petitioner, Pro se (Signature)

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone No.: _____