# Agenda Committee on Resources for Self-represented Parties

October 10, 2008 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Administrative Office of the Courts Scott M. Matheson Courthouse 450 South State Street Judicial Council Room, Suite N31

Approval of minutes	Tab 1	Judge John Baxter
Report on Court Solutions Conference		Mary Jane Ciccarello
Education Subcommittee		Judge John Baxter
Temporary Restraining Order	Tab 2	Mary Jane Ciccarello
Delegation of Powers by a Parent	Tab 3	Mary Jane Ciccarello
Voluntary Relinquishment of Parental Rights	Tab 4	Mary Jane Ciccarello
Miscellaneous Forms Answer Affidavit Memorandum of Costs and Attorney Fees Notice of Entry of Appearance Pro Se Request to Submit for Decision Proof of Service of Complaint and Summons	Tab 5	Tim Shea

Committee Web Page: http://www.utcourts.gov/committees/ProSe/

Meeting Schedule: Matheson Courthouse, 12:00 to 1:30, Judicial Council Room

December 12, 2008 February 13, 2009 April 10, 2009 June 12, 2009 August 14, 2009 October 9, 2009 December 11, 2009

## Tab 1

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES FOR SELF-REPRESENTED PARTIES Meeting Minutes

#### August 8, 2008 Matheson Courthouse Salt Lake City, Utah

**Members Present**: Fred Anderson; Prof. James H. Backman; Pat Bartholomew; Mary Jane Ciccarello; Rep. Neil Hansen; Christine James; Christina Micken; Hon. Rodney Page; Stewart Ralphs; Hon. James Shumate; Prof. Linda Smith.

**Members Excused:** Hon. John L. Baxter, Chair; Hon. Christine S. Decker; Robert Jeffs; Jay Kessler; Jose Lazaro; Jessica Van Buren.

**Staff Present:** Marianne O'Brien; Tim Shea

#### Welcome and review of June meeting minutes

Judge Shumate, acting for Judge Baxter, welcomed all present. Mary Jane Ciccarello recommended some changes to the minutes of the June 13, 2008 meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

#### **Motion for Temporary Order**

Tim Shea referred the group to the draft forms. He indicated Stewart Ralphs and Mary Jane Ciccarello evaluated the drafts and gave their input. The group viewed most of the forms at the last meeting. Mr. Shea asked the committee to raise any points.

The committee discussed the forms. Considerable discussion ensued about how it should be handled when a party opposes the motion.

- The instruction sheet can indicate that if a party wants to ask for his or her own relief, s/he needs to file a motion and statement of support.
- If one party puts an issue before the court the court can rule on it in the other party's favor.
- It should be one form not two.
- In response to the motion, there could be a check box that refers to that party's countermotion.
- It is probably helpful for pro se litigants to actually file a separate motion. There is too much confusion in a counter motion.

Following discussion, Mr. Shea summarized: for each of the items in the statement opposing the original motion for temporary order, there should be something like "I request that my attached motion be granted," so the statement in opposition would refer to the other document. Mr. Shea will work on the language for this and reflect in each paragraph that the party opposing the motion has the opportunity to attach a motion granting their own relief.

Fred Anderson asked what the nature of the self-affirmation rule is. Mr. Shea responded that the statute says that whenever a rule requires an affidavit, a declaration is sufficient. That has been added to all the forms. The distinction is that if a statute requires an affidavit it has to be an affidavit; if a rule requires an affidavit, it can be a declaration.

James Backman asked if the temporary order is already in the OCAP forms. Mr. Shea responded that once this committee comes to closure on the packet, it will be presented to the Board of District Court Judges. When the Board comes to closure on it, it will be left to the discretion of the OCAP Board whether to develop the interview equivalent.

Judge Shumate indicated the Policy and Planning Committee is looking at public vs. private disclosure of information and issues of naming children, and giving dates of birth on the forms. Should this committee make any suggestions in looking at self-rep parties about disclosure?

Mr. Shea indicated that the Policy & Planning Committee is considering a rule change that has been out for comment and on which many comments have been received, that would treat as private a lot of identifying information: social security number, bank account numbers, and identification of children. They have decided that if this private information needs to be provided in an otherwise public document, some of the private information should be truncated or redacted, so that only the last 4 digits of a social security number, a bank account number, the initials and month and year of birth of children are in the document. If there is not a rule change, the form does not need to be this restrictive.

Chris James stated that in her district, many calls are received from people who want documents so they can come in post decree and get relief. She asked if there is something that says this applies to pre-divorce, because people are going to try to use this. Mr. Shea indicated this will need to stated be in the instructions.

#### **Delegation of Powers by a Parent**

Ms. Ciccarello distributed the instruction sheet for the Delegation of Powers by a Parent. The form is a basic power of attorney form that tracks the statute. The committee reviewed the form and instruction sheet and some suggestions were given, which were noted by Ms. Ciccarello.

#### **Voluntary Relinquishment of Parental Rights**

Ms. Ciccarello distributed the instruction sheet for Voluntary Relinquishment of Parental Rights. She noted that the issue arises enough to at least set out what the law allows in terms of voluntary relinquishment.

Judge Shumate noted there is a problem statewide with the general public and some judges not realizing that the only way a district judge can terminate parental rights is in an adoption. People think this can be done in divorces. It should be clarified in forms and instructions that Voluntary Relinquishment is only to be filed in the juvenile court or in the district court together with an adoption.

Mr. Shea stated that once this committee approves the final draft, it will be taken to both the Juvenile Board of Judges and the District Board of Judges for approval.

Upon review of the forms and instructions and following discussion, the committee made suggestions which were noted by Ms. Ciccarello.

#### **Other Business**

James Backman asked if the request to hire more attorneys for the self-help center has been made. Mr. Shea responded that the request will be put before the Judicial Council on August 25. Mr. Shea will keep the committee apprised of their decision.

The meeting was adjourned.

## Tab 2

## Temporary Restraining Order (Child Custody)

#### **Forms Checklist**

Fill ou	t these forms as instructed and file them with the Court Clerk:
	Motion for Temporary Restraining Order - complete the entire form and sign and date it
	Affidavit in Support of Motion for Temporary Restraining Order - complete the entire form and sign and date it before a notary public or the deputy court clerk
	Rule 65A Certification of Notice - complete the entire form and sign and date it
	Temporary Restraining Order - complete the heading only
	Writ of Assistance - complete the heading only
	Service Assistance Form - complete the entire form
	Remember to keep copies of all paperwork for your records.

My Name		
Address		
City, State, Zip		
Phone	<u></u>	
E-mail		
I am the Petitioner Respondent Attorney for the Petitioner R R	espondent and my Utah Bar number is	
In the District Co	urt of Utah	
Judicial District	County	
Court Address		
	Motion for Temporary Restraining Order	
Petitioner	Case Number	
V.	Judge	
	_	
Respondent	Commissioner	
COMES NOW	[your name], the	
☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent, and respectfully moves for a Temporary Restraining		
Order that provides for the following.		
(1) The Petitioner Respondent should	d be awarded the temporary care,	
custody and control of the parties' minor child(re	en):	

(2) The Petitioner Respondent should be ordered to immediately return the		
minor child(ren) to the custody of the $\square$ Petitioner $\square$ Respondent.		
(3) Petitioner Respondent should be ordered to bring the child(ren) to		
[location of the court] for the hearing if the		
child(ren) has/have not already been returned.		
(4) This court should enter a Writ of Assistance directing the appropriate law		
enforcement officials to provide any assistance necessary to help the  Petitioner		
Respondent regain custody of the minor child(ren) listed in paragraph (1).		
The court should grant any other relief that may be just and proper in this		
situation.		
situation.  (6) The parties should be ordered to appear before the assigned judge within 10		

(7) This Motion for Temporary Res	straining Order is submitted pursuant to Utah		
Rules of Civil Procedure and is suppo	orted by the Petitioner's Verified Petition, Rule 65A		
Certification of Notice, and Affidavit(s) in support filed with this motion.			
I declare under criminal penalty of Utah Code §78B-5-705 that this Motion for Temporary Restraining Order is true and correct.			
Date	Sign here ▶		
Typed or	printed name		

My Name		
Address		
City, State, Zip		
Phone		
E-mail		
I am the Petitioner Respondent Attorney for the Petitioner Re	espondent and my Utah Bar number is	
In the District Co	urt of Utah	
Judicial District	County	
Court Address	•	
	Affidavit in Support of Motion for Temporary Restraining Order	
Petitioner	Case Number	
V.	Judge	
	Commissioner	
Respondent		
Being first duly sworn, I state that:		
(1) I am [your name], the Detitioner Respondent.		
(2) I am asking the court to issue a Temporary Restraining Order because		

(3) Immediate and irreparable injury will result before   Petitioner  Respondent
can be heard in opposition.
certify that, who is known to me or who presented satisfactory identification, has, while in my presence and while under oath or affirmation, voluntarily signed this document and declared that it is true.
Date: Sign here ▶
Typed or printed name:
Notary Seal:

My Name		
Address		
City, State, Zip		
Phone		
E-mail		
I am the Petitioner Respondent Attorney for the Petitioner Re	espondent and my Utah Bar number is	
In the District Court of Utah,	Judicial District	
Court Address	·	
	Rule 65A Certification of Notice  Case Number	
Petitioner	Case Number	
	Judge	
V.	Commissioner	
Despendent		
Respondent		
COMES NOW the  Petitioner Respondent and certifies to the court as follows:		
(1) That, based on the facts in the attached Verified Petition, the Motion for		
Temporary Restraining Order, and the supporting Affidavit(s), immediate and		
irreparable injury will result to $\square$ Petitioner $\square$ Respondent before the $\square$ Petitioner $\square$		
Respondent or his/her attorney can be heard in opposition.		

(2)	That the following efforts have been made to give notice of this application for a
Temp	porary Restraining Order:
a.	
b.	
(3) requi	Notice to the  Petitioner Respondent, or his/her attorney, should not be red for the following reasons:
a.	
b.	
	lare under criminal penalty of Utah Code Section 78B-5-705 that this Rule 65A fication of Notice is true and correct.
Date	Sign here ▶
	Typed or printed name

In the District Co	urt of Utah		
Judicial District	County		
Court Address			
	Temporary Restraining Order		
	Case Number		
Petitioner	Judge		
V.	Commissioner		
<del></del>			
Respondent			
THE COURT, having reviewed the Verified Peti	ition, the Motion for Temporary		
Restraining Order, supporting Affidavit(s), and Rule 65A Certification of Notice, copies			
of which are to be served upon the  Petitione	r Respondent, it appears as follows:		
(1) That the Petitioner Respondent has [state the conduct or omissions]:			
	·		

(2) That this conduct constitutes a threat of immediate and irreparable harm to the			
Petitioner Respondent and to the parties' minor child(ren).			
(3) That notice to the $\square$ Petitioner $\square$ Respondent may result in further harm.			
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:			
(1) The Petitioner Respondent is awarded temporary care, custody, and			
control of the parties' minor child(ren):			
Initials of Child Month and Year of Birth			
(2) The Petitioner Respondent is ordered to immediately return the minor			
child(ren) listed in paragraph (1) to the custody of the  Petitioner Respondent.			
(3) The Petitioner Respondent is ordered to bring the child(ren) to			
[location of hearing] for the scheduled hearing if			
the child(ren) has/have not already been returned to the $\square$ Petitioner $\square$ Respondent.			
(4) A Writ of Assistance shall be entered directing the appropriate law enforcement			
officials to provide any assistance necessary to help the $\square$ Petitioner $\square$ Respondent			
regain custody of the minor child(ren) listed in paragraph (1).			

(5)	The parties shall appear before the h	lonoral	ole	,
Distri	ct Court Judge, on	[0	date] at	[time] at
the _	Court at			
[addre	ess] and show cause, if any exists, why	the Te	mporary Restraining	Order should not
be co	ontinued during this action.			
(6)	This Restraining Order is issued with	out not	ice and ex parte and	l expires ten days
from	the date of its issuance unless amende	ed by th	ne Court.	
BY T	HE COURT:			
Date				
	Typed or printe	d name	District Court Judge/Ju	udge's Appointee
_				
Serve	e  Petitioner  Respondent at:			

In the District Court of Utah					
	Judicial Dist	trict	County		
Court Addres	 s				
		,	Writ of Assistance		
Petitioner			Case Number Judge		
V.			Commissioner		
Respondent					
TO THE			POLICE DEPARTMENT,		
			COUNTY SHERIFF,		
CONSTABLE, AND/OR OTHER APPROPRIATE PEACE OFFICER:					
You are directed to provide any necessary assistance to the above-named   Petitioner					
Respondent	in immediately retrieving a	and retur	ning to		
Petitioner Respondent physical custody of the parties' minor child(ren):					
Initials of Child	Month and Year of Birth				

Such actions include, but are not limited to, obtaining access to the child(ren) through locked doors and gates and restraining any persons who may attempt to prevent you from carrying out this Writ.

BY THE COURT:		
Date:	Sign here ▶	
	Typed or printed name	District Court Judge/Judge's Appointee

### Service Assistance Form This is a Private Record (C.IA 4-202.02)

			This is a Private I	Record (C	CJA 4-2	202.02)				
Case				Docum		1				
Number				be Ser	ved					
Court Address										
71441000										
Informatio	n About \	<b>′</b> ou				About t	he P	arty		
				to be S						
☐ Plaintiff/P	etitioner	☐ Defen	dant/Respondent		tiff/Peti	tioner		Defenda	nt/Re	espondent
Name				Name		•				
Alias/Nickn	ame			Alias/N	icknar	ne				
Home				Home						
address Home phor	) <u>o</u>			address Home						
Best times				Best tir		raaah	1			
	io reach				nes to	reacn				
Work name &				Work name 8	٤ ا					
address				addres						
Work phon	е			Work p	hone					
Best times	to reach			Best tir	nes to	reach				
Cell phone				Cell ph	one					
SSN		DOB		SSN				DOB		
				Race				Sex		
				Weight			H	Height		
				Hair co	lor		I	Eye col	or	
				Special	l chara	acteristic	cs (ta	attoos, s	scar	s, etc.)
				Driver's	- !!					
				numbe		SE				
				Vehicle		se				
				numbe	r		B 4	lodal		
				Make				lodel		
				Year				olor		
				If this p		•				le, list
				the nan			icy, (	Jilicei,	anu	
				Has thi						
				violent	in the	past?	Ш	Yes 🗌	] No	)

### Temporary Restraining Order Packet (Child Custody)

#### Information and Instructions

A Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) is a request to the court to take immediate action to prevent "immediate and irreparable harm." A TRO is an emergency request and should not be used lightly.

You can ask the court to issue a TRO only if there is an underlying action (such as a divorce or parentage petition) pending before the court. For example, if you have filed for divorce and your spouse is threatening to take your minor children out of state or out of the country without your consent, then a TRO may be necessary to prevent immediate and irreparable harm before the divorce can be finalized.

#### Fill Out the Paperwork

If a TRO is necessary, then complete the forms in this packet and file them with the court where you are filing or have already filed your underlying action. If you have not already filed a divorce, parentage, or other related petition with the court, then you must file such a petition before requesting the TRO.

Use the Checklist to help you figure out which forms in this packet should be completely filled out, and which should only be partially filled out.

Use the same case number used in your underlying action if you have already filed a divorce, parentage, or related petition. If there is no existing divorce or parentage case, file your divorce or parentage petition with the court first to obtain a case number. Then use that case number to file the TRO.

You are the Petitioner in the TRO papers if you are the Petitioner in your original action. If you are the Respondent in the original action, you remain the Respondent in the TRO.

Make at least two copies of everything you file. The original documents are filed with the court, one set of copies is for the opposing party, and the second set of copies is for your records.

#### **Next Steps**

A judge will review your documents once you file them with the court. If the judge signs the TRO and the Writ of Assistance, then a hearing will be scheduled within 10 days to decide whether the TRO should remain in place for a longer period of time or if something else should happen. Write the hearing date on the original and all copies of the TRO.

Make arrangements with local law enforcement to serve all the documents on the opposing party and to use the Writ of Assistance to pick up the child(ren) if they are with the opposing party. If the children are not with the opposing party or if law enforcement cannot facilitate retrieval of the child(ren), the opposing party is ordered to bring the child(ren) to the TRO hearing.

File with the court the Return of Service (proof that the opposing party was served) once it is completed by law enforcement.

Appear at the scheduled TRO hearing. Present your request to the judge for the TRO provisions to stay in effect until there are further or final orders of the court.

#### Talk to an Attorney

A TRO can be complicated. Consider talking to an attorney to go over your options. One way to talk to an attorney is to visit a free legal clinic. Clinics provide general legal information and give brief legal advice.

#### References

Finding an Attorney:

http://www.utcourts.gov/howto/legalassist/

Free Legal Clinics:

http://www.utcourts.gov/howto/legalclinics/

Going to Court:

http://www.utcourts.gov/howto/pro\_se/

Service:

http://www.utcourts.gov/howto/service/service\_of\_process.html

Utah Rules of Civil Procedure 65A:

http://www.utcourts.gov/resources/rules/urcp/urcp065a.html

## Tab 3

### Delegation of Powers by Parent or Guardian (Under Utah Code Section 75-5-103)

I	[name of parent/guardian],
whose address and contact telephone num	nber are:
appoint	[name of
person(s) being appointed], whose address and	d contact telephone number are:
as my attorney-in-fact to whom I delegate	all power and authority regarding the care,
custody, or property of my minor child	☐ ward,
	[name of minor child or ward],
born on	[date], except the power to
consent to the marriage or adoption of a m	inor ward.
In addition, I delegate to my attorney-in-fac	et the specific authority to:

This power of attorney shall last for a period of not more than six months from the date I			
sign it, unless otherwise revoked	by me or by law.		
Date	Sign here ▶		
Тур	ed or printed name		
I certify that	. who	o is known to me or who	
presented satisfactory identificat			
affirmation, voluntarily signed this			
Date:	Sign here ▶		
Ту	ped or printed name:		
	Notary Seal:		

#### Utah Code Section 75-5-103. Delegation of powers by parent or guardian.

A parent or a guardian of a minor or incapacitated person, by a properly-executed power of attorney, may delegate to another person, for a period not exceeding six months, any of his powers regarding care, custody, or property of the minor child or ward, except his power to consent to marriage or adoption of a minor ward.

#### **Delegation of Powers by Parent or Guardian**

#### Instructions

Utah law says a parent of a minor child or a court-appointed guardian of a minor child or an incapacitated adult can temporarily delegate parental or guardianship powers to another adult - a person 18 years of age or older.

The appointed person, or attorney-in-fact, must be capable of making responsible decisions on behalf of the minor child or incapacitated adult. The attorney-in-fact does not need to be related to the parent or quardian or the minor child or ward.

The Delegation of Powers form documents the delegation of decision making powers of a parent or a guardian to another adult. However, this delegation does not create a guardianship.

For example, a parent or a quardian who will be out of the country for several months can use this form to appoint another adult to take any necessary action concerning the care, custody or property of the minor child or ward while the parent or guardian is gone.

The delegation of powers is effective for up to six months. The delegation of powers is effective when the parent or guardian has completed the Delegation of Powers form and signed it in front of a notary. The parent or guardian can revoke the delegation of powers at any time. Written notice of the revocation should be given to the appointed attorney-in-fact, and may be required to be given to anyone who has been given notice of the delegation of powers.

#### Instructions

Complete two original copies of this document – one for your records, and one for the records of the attorney-in-fact.
Provide your name (the name of the parent or guardian making the delegation of powers) and your current address and contact telephone number where indicated.
Provide the name of the person to whom parental or guardianship powers are being delegated and their current address and telephone contact number where indicated.
Indicate whether the delegation is for a minor child or a ward.  - If you are a guardian, check "ward." A ward can be either a minor child or an

incapacitated adult.
Provide the name and birth date of the minor child or ward where indicated.
Leave the next lines blank unless there are specific powers you want to delegate For example, you may want the attorney-in-fact to enroll the minor child or ward in school or extra-curricular activities, or to authorize medical or dental treatment of the minor child or ward.
You must sign and date both original copies of the form in the presence of the notary. The delegation of authority is effective as of the date they are signed and notarized.
Give one original copy of the completed form to the attorney-in-fact. You keep the other original copy.
You may revoke the delegation of authority at any time by notifying the attorney-in-fact of the revocation. Written notice of the revocation should be given to the appointed attorney-in-fact, and may be required to be given to anyone who has been given notice of the delegation of powers. Destroy the originals and all copies of the document when the delegation of authority is revoked or at the end of the time period of the delegation of authority.
Give copies of the document to any person or entity that may need them. For example, if the attorney-in-fact needs to make a medical treatment decision on behalf of the minor child or ward, the attorney-in-fact should provide the medical care provider with a copy of the form.

## Tab 4

#### **Voluntary Relinquishment of Parental Rights**

#### **Forms Checklist**

Fill ou	Fill out these forms as instructed and file them with the court clerk:				
	Civil Cover Sheet				
	Petition for Termination of Parental Rights Upon Voluntary Relinquishment - complete and sign				
	Voluntary Relinquishment of Parental Rights - complete but <b>do not sign</b> until the judge tells you to do so				
	Findings of Fact & Conclusions of Law - complete the information on the first page but <b>do not sign</b> – the judge signs this form				
	Order Terminating Parental Rights - complete but <b>do not sign</b> – the judge signs this form				
If you cannot pay the filing fee, complete and file these forms to ask the judge to waive the filing fee. The judge will consider your request and may grant a total waiver, a partial waiver, or no waiver of fees.					
	Affidavit and Application for Waiver of Court Fees (In the Matter Of)				
	Court Order on Motion for Waiver of Court Fees				
	forms are available on the court's website: http://www.utcourts.gov/resources/forms/ under the of Court Fees heading.				
	Remember to keep copies of all paperwork for your records.				

Itah Bar number is
ourt of Utah
County
Petition for Termination of Parental Rights Upon Voluntary Relinquishment
•
Case Number
Commissioner
s:
(name
,

(3)	My minor child is a ☐ male ☐ female, who was born on,
and v	vhose residence is
(4)	It is in my minor child's best interest that my parental rights be terminated.
(5)	The reason I am asking the court to terminate my parental rights is:
(6)	I am not seeking to terminate my parental rights to avoid my financial support
	ations to my minor child.
l ask	the court to:
(1)	Schedule a date and time for the court for hearing on this petition.
(2)	Provide notice of the petition and hearing to the following people and/or agencies
if so ı	required by the judge:

Name	Address	Relationship to Petitioner or Child
		Mother
		Father
		Legal guardian of child or person
		Guardian ad Litem
		Utah Attorney General

- (3) Accept my voluntary relinquishment of parental rights signed or confirmed under oath before the judge or a public officer appointed by the court for the purpose of taking consents or relinquishments as provided in Utah Code Section 78B-6-124.
- (4) Determine that it is in my minor child's best interests for my parental rights to be terminated.
- (5) Grant a voluntary relinquishment of my parental rights.

I declare under criminal penalty of Utah Code Section 78B-5-705 that this Petition for Termination of Parental Rights Upon Voluntary Relinquishment is true and correct.

Date	Sign here ▶ _	
	Typed or printed name	

	Certificate of Service			
I certify that I served a copy of this Petition for Termination of Parental Rights Upon Voluntary				
	Relinquishment on the following peo	ple.		
		Served at this	Served on	
Person's Name	Method of Service	Address	this Date	
	☐ Mail			
	☐ Hand Delivery			
	Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)			
	Email (Person agreed to service by email.)			
	Left at business (With person in charge			
	or in receptacle for deliveries.)			
(OII DI AII )	Left at home (With person of suitable age			
(Other Party or Attorney)	and discretion residing there.)			
	Mail			
(2)	Hand Delivery			
(Clerk of Court)	Electronic File			
	Mail			
	Hand Delivery			
	Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)			
	Email (Person agreed to service by email.)			
	Left at business (With person in charge			
	or in receptacle for deliveries.)			
	Left at home (With person of suitable age			
	and discretion residing there.)			
	Mail			
	Hand Delivery			
	Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)			
	Email (Person agreed to service by email.)			
	Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)			
	Left at home (With person of suitable age			
	and discretion residing there.)			
	and distriction residing there.)		L	
Date	Sign here ▶			
	Typed or printed name			
	Typed of printed fidine			

My Name		
Address		
City, State, Zip		
Phone		
E-mail		
I am the Petitioner Attorney for the Petitioner and my U	tah Bar number is	
In the Juvenile Co	ourt of Utah	
Judicial District	County	
Court Address		-
IN THE MATTER OF	Voluntary Relinquishment of Parental Rights	
(child's initials)	Case Number	_
A MINOR CHILD.	Judge	
	Commissioner	_
Being first duly sworn, and under oath, I say as	follows:	
(1) I am the natural   father   mother of(min		
child's name).		
(2) My place of residence is:		
(3) My minor child is a ☐ male ☐ female, w	ho was born on,	
and whose residence is	<del>-</del> -	

(4) child a	By my signature below I voluntarily relinquish my parental rights to this minor and consent to the court's termination of those parental rights.	
(5)	It is in my minor child's best interest that my parental rights be terminated.	
(6)	The reason I am asking the court to terminate my parental rights is:	
(7)	I am not seeking to terminate my parental rights to avoid my financial support	
obliga	tions to my minor child.	
(8)	I understand that by signing this document my parental rights over my minor child	
will be	e terminated and that I will no longer have any rights or obligations of a parent to	
this cl	nild.	

The parental rights I am voluntarily relinquishing include, but are not limited to,

the rights of custody, visitation, and any other physical contact with this child, whether in

(9)

person, by mail, or any electronic means whatsoever, and any input regarding decisions

made about this child.

(10) The parental obligations that I am voluntarily relinquishing include, but are not

limited to, obligations to provide for the care, support, education, and moral training of

this child from the date the order terminating my parental rights is entered and forward.

(11) I understand that any obligation for support of this child incurred prior to the date

of my signing this document will remain and I will still be obligated to pay for that

support.

(12) I understand that termination of my parental rights following my voluntary

relinquishment does not extinguish my child's right to inherit from my estate upon my

death, nor does it remove eligibility from my child for entitlements from state or federal

governments or Indian Tribes that my child may be entitled to as a result of my being

the child's natural parent.

(13) I understand that once I sign this document I may not change my mind and that

my parental rights and obligations will be terminated.

Having read this document, I fully understand that by signing below I will permanently

relinquish all my rights and obligations as a parent to my minor child. Knowing this, I am

signing this document voluntarily, of my own choice, without any pressure, coercion, or

promises having been made to me by any person for any purpose whatsoever.

Date	Sign here ▶	
Туре	ed or printed name	
This document was signed before		Petitioner's
dentity was proven to me in the f	ollowing way:	

Prior to petitioner signing this document I placed petitioner under oath and asked petitioner whether petitioner had read this document and understood that the result of petitioner's signing this document would be that petitioner would relinquish permanently all parental rights and obligations over petitioner's minor child, and that once petitioner had signed the document, petitioner could not change petitioner's mind and reinstate petitioner's parental rights and obligations.

After being sworn and while under oath, petitioner stated that petitioner had read this document, fully understood its contents, and that the contents were true of petitioner's own personal knowledge.

Petitioner further stated that petitioner understood that petitioner was relinquishing all parental rights and obligations to petitioner's minor child and that petitioner understood

that the rights petitioner was relinquishing included custody, visitation, and the right to be involved in any decision regarding the child whatsoever.

Petitioner stated that petitioner understood that petitioner could not change petitioner's mind once this document was signed and that petitioner's relinquishment would be irrevocable. Petitioner then signed the document in my presence.

\_\_\_\_\_

Judge

or a public officer appointed by the court for the purpose of taking consents or relinquishments as provided in Utah Code §78B-6-124

Certify that I served a copy of this Voluntary Relinquishment of Parental Rights on the following people.    Person's Name		Certificate of Service		
Method of Service Address this Date    Mail	I certify that I serve	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	of Parental Rights on t	he following
Mail   Hand Delivery   Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)   Email (Person agreed to service by email.)   Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)   Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)   Mail   Hand Delivery   Electronic File   Mail   Hand Delivery   Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)   Email (Person agreed to service by email.)   Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)   Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)   Mail   Hand Delivery   Fax (Person agreed to service by email.)   Left at business (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)   Mail   Hand Delivery   Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)   Email (Person agreed to service by email.)   Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)   Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)   Sign here ▶			Served at this	Served on
Mail   Hand Delivery   Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)   Email (Person agreed to service by email.)   Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)   Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)   Mail   Hand Delivery   Electronic File   Mail   Hand Delivery   Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)   Email (Person agreed to service by email.)   Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)   Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)   Mail   Hand Delivery   Fax (Person agreed to service by email.)   Left at business (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)   Mail   Hand Delivery   Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)   Email (Person agreed to service by email.)   Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)   Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)   Sign here ▶	Person's Name	Method of Service		this Date
Hand Delivery  Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)  Email (Person agreed to service by email.)  Left at business (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)  Mail  Hand Delivery  [Clerk of Court)  Mail  Hand Delivery  Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)  Email (Person agreed to service by fax.)  Email (Person agreed to service by email.)  Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)  Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)  Mail  Hand Delivery  Fax (Person agreed to service by email.)  Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)  Mail  Hand Delivery  Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)  Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)  Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)  Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)  Left at business (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)  Date  Sign here ▶		<b>i</b>		
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Other Party or Attorney   and discretion residing there.)   Mail   Hand Delivery   Electronic File   Mail   Hand Delivery   Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)   Email (Person agreed to service by email.)   Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)   Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)   Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)   Email (Person agreed to service by fax.)   Email (Person agreed to service by email.)   Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)   Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)   Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)   Sign here ▶				
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(Clerk of Court)				
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Hand Delivery  Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)  Email (Person agreed to service by email.)  Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)  Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)  Mail  Hand Delivery  Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)  Email (Person agreed to service by email.)  Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)  Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)  Date  Sign here ▶	(Clerk of Court)	☐ Electronic File		
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Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)  Mail Hand Delivery Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.) Email (Person agreed to service by email.) Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.) Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)  Date  Sign here ▶				
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Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)    Date  Sign here ▶				
Date Sign here ▶				
Date Sign here ▶				
		and discretion residing there.)		
Typed or printed name	Date	Sign here ►		
rypod or printed rights		Typed or printed name		

In the Juvenile Court of Utah		
Judicial District	County	
Court Address	•	
IN THE MATTER OF	Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law	
(child's initials)	Case Number	
A MINOR CHILD.	Judge	
	Commissioner	
This matter came before the court on petitioner's Petition for Termination of Parental Rights upon Voluntary Relinquishment. A hearing was held on (date),		
before the Honorable	, Judge, or before	
, a public office	cer appointed by the court for the	
purpose of taking consents or relinquishments as provided in Utah Code Section 78B-6-		
124. The petitioner was placed under oath and the court made inquiries of the		
petitioner. The petitioner then signed the docum	nent entitled Voluntary Relinquishment of	
Parental Rights. The court, having received pet	itioner's voluntary relinquishment, makes	
the following:		
FINDINGS (	OF FACT	
(1) Petitioner is the natural ☐ father ☐ moth	ner of (name	
of minor child).		

(2)	Petitioner's minor child is a $\square$ male $\square$ female, who was born on
	, and whose residence is
(3)	The reason petitioner voluntarily relinquished parental rights is:
(4)	Petitioner is not voluntarily relinquishing petitioner's parental rights for the
purp	ose of avoiding petitioner's financial support obligations to petitioner's minor child.
(5)	Petitioner understands that by signing the Voluntary Relinquishment of Parental
Righ	ts that petitioner's parental rights over petitioner's minor child will be terminated and
that	petitioner will no longer have any rights or obligations of a parent to this child.
(6)	Petitioner understands that the parental rights petitioner is voluntarily
reline	quishing include, but are not limited to, the rights of custody, visitation, and any

other physical contact with this child, whether in person, by mail, or any electronic

means whatsoever, and any input regarding decisions made about this child.

(7) Petitioner understands that the parental obligations that petitioner is voluntarily

relinquishing include, but are not limited to, obligations to provide for the care, support,

education, and moral training of this child.

(8) Petitioner understands that any obligation for support of this child incurred prior

to the date of petitioner signing the document entitled Voluntary Relinquishment of

Parental Rights remain and that petitioner is still obligated to pay that support.

(9) Petitioner understands that termination of petitioner's parental rights following

petitioner's voluntary relinquishment does not extinguish the child's right to inherit from

petitioner's estate, nor does it remove eligibility from petitioner's child for entitlements

from state or federal governments or Indian Tribes that this child may be entitled to as a

result of petitioner being the child's natural parent.

(10) Petitioner understands that once petitioner has signed the document entitled

Voluntary Relinquishment of Parental Rights, petitioner may not change petitioner's

mind and that petitioner's parental rights will be terminated.

The Court having entered its Findings of Fact, now makes its:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The court concludes that it is in the best interest of the above named minor child that petitioner's parental rights be permanently terminated. The court further concludes that petitioner freely and voluntarily signed the document entitled Voluntary Relinquishment of Parental Rights and that the primary purpose for petitioner relinquishing petitioner's parental rights was other than to avoid support obligations for the child.

Dated:		
	Judge	

Certificate of Service			
I certify that I served a copy of this Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law on the following people.			
		Served at this	Served on
Person's Name	Method of Service	Address	this Date
	☐ Mail		
	☐ Hand Delivery		
	Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)		
	Email (Person agreed to service by email.)		
	Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)		
	Left at home (With person of suitable age		
(Other Party or Attorney)	and discretion residing there.)		
	☐ Mail		
	Hand Delivery		
(Clerk of Court)	Electronic File		
	Hand Delivery		
	Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)		
	Email (Person agreed to service by email.)		
	Left at business (With person in charge		
	or in receptacle for deliveries.)		
	Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)		
	Mail		
	Hand Delivery		
	Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)		
	Email (Person agreed to service by email.)		
	Left at business (With person in charge		
	or in receptacle for deliveries.)		
	Left at home (With person of suitable age		
	and discretion residing there.)		
Date	Sign here ▶		
	Typed or printed name		

In the Juvenile ct (	Court of Utah
Judicial District	County
Court Address	
IN THE MATTER OF	Order Terminating Parental Rights
IN THE MATTER OF	Case Number
(child's initials)	Judge
A MINOR CHILD.	Commissioner
This matter came before the court on petitioner	's Petition for Termination of Parental
Rights upon Voluntary Relinquishment. A hear	ing was held on [date],
before the Honorable	, Judge, or before
, a public offi	cer appointed by the court for the
purpose of taking consents or relinquishments	as provided in Utah Code Section 78B-6-
124. Petitioner was placed under oath and the	court made inquiries of the petitioner.
The petitioner then signed or confirmed under o	oath the document entitled Voluntary
Relinquishment of Parental Rights. The court h	aving received petitioner's voluntary
relinquishment and having previously entered in	ts Findings of Fact and Conclusions of
Law, orders as follows:	
(1) Petitioner is:	
Name:	
Date of Birth:	

	Residence:
(2)	Petitioner is the natural $\square$ father $\square$ mother of the minor child, identified as:
	Name:
	☐ Male ☐ Female
	Date of Birth:
	Residence:

Obligations are permanently terminated over the minor child named above. The parental rights and obligations which are terminated by this order include, but are not limited to, the rights of custody, visitation, and any other physical contact with this child, whether in person, by mail, or any electronic means whatsoever, and any input regarding decisions made about this child; and the obligations to provide for the care, support, education, and moral training of this child from the date the relinquishment was entered. This order does not terminate any support obligations incurred prior to the date the relinquishment was entered. This order does not extinguish this child's right to inherit from petitioner's estate, nor does it remove eligibility from this child for entitlements from state or federal governments or Indian tribes that this child may be entitled to as a result of petitioner being the child's natural parent.

(4)	Other orders relating to the minor child's care and welfare that are in the minor
child'	s best interests:
_	
Date	d:
	Judge

	Certificate of Service		
I certify that I serv	I certify that I served a copy of this Order Terminating Parental Rights on the following people.		
		Served at this	Served on
Person's Name	Method of Service	Address	this Date
	Hand Delivery		
	Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)		
	Email (Person agreed to service by email.)		
	Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)		
	Left at home (With person of suitable age		
(Other Party or Attorney)	and discretion residing there.)		
	☐ Mail		
	Hand Delivery		
(Clerk of Court)	Electronic File		
	Mail		
	Hand Delivery		
	Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)		
	Email (Person agreed to service by email.)		
	Left at business (With person in charge		
	or in receptacle for deliveries.)		
	Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)		
	Mail		
	Hand Delivery		
	Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)		
	Email (Person agreed to service by email.)		
	Left at business (With person in charge		
	or in receptacle for deliveries.)		
	Left at home (With person of suitable age		
	and discretion residing there.)		
Date	Sign here ▶		
	Typed or printed name		

# **Voluntary Relinquishment of Parental Rights**

## Information, Instructions, and Forms

### **IMPORTANT!**

This packet has forms for a parent to voluntarily give up their parental rights and obligations.

Relinquishing your parental rights is a serious, permanent action. Consider talking to an attorney before starting the process.

The relinquishment is effective when it is signed and cannot be revoked.

Be sure that you want to give up all your parental rights and obligations before you sign; you cannot change your mind later.

## **Figure Out Which Court Has Jurisdiction**

Relinquishment of parental rights involves ending custody and visitation rights. The court where the petition is filed must have jurisdiction under the state<sup>1</sup> and federal<sup>2</sup> statutes that determine where custody and visitation cases may be filed.

If a court has previously entered a custody or visitation order and has not relinquished jurisdiction, the Petition for Relinquishment of Parental Rights should be filed in the state where that court is located. If the child is in the custody of a state agency or otherwise under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, then the relinquishment of parental rights must occur in juvenile court.

If no court has ever entered a custody or visitation order, then the petition should be filed in the state where the child has lived the most recent six months or where the child has lived since birth if under six months of age. If the child has not lived in any one state for six months or longer, then the petition should be filed in the state which is the most convenient.

Consider contacting an attorney if you are unsure which court has jurisdiction.

### Fill Out the Paperwork

Use the Checklist to help you figure out which forms in this packet should be completely filled out, and which should only be partially filled out.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Utah's statute is called the Utah Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA), Utah Code §78B-13-101 et seq.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The federal statute is called the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA), 28 U.S. Code §1738A.

## File the Paperwork

Once you figure out which state has jurisdiction, file the Petition for Relinquishment of Parental Rights in the juvenile court in the county that has jurisdiction over the child. If an adoption case has been filed in a Utah district court, file your petition in that adoption case in the district court. If you file in juvenile court, use only the child's initials and not the child's full name on the paperwork. For example, if the child's name is "John Doe," refer to the child only as "J.D."

You will have to pay a fee when you file the paperwork. If you cannot afford the filing fee, you can ask the judge to waive the filing fee by filing an Application and Affidavit for Waiver of Court Fees (In the Matter Of). The judge will consider your request and may grant a total waiver, a partial waiver, or no waiver of fees.

Once the petition is filed, the judge will schedule a hearing. If you do not receive notice of the hearing within a week or so of filing the petition, you should contact the judge's clerk.

The judge may require that notice of the petition and hearing be served on other people such as another parent, guardian, or caregiver of the child as well as any state agency that may be involved with the child. In that case, the court clerk will send notice of the petition and hearing to these people.

## The Hearing

At the hearing, the judge will call the parent asking to relinquish parental rights to the witness stand and ask some questions. If the judge thinks it is in the child's best interest to grant the request, and that the parent is not asking to do this to try to avoid paying child support, the judge will ask the parent to sign the Voluntary Relinquishment before leaving the witness stand.

The judge will then fill out the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and the Order forms and sign them. You can get a certified copy of the Order from the court clerk for your records. If the judge required you to provide notice of the petition and hearing to other people, the court clerk will send a copy of the final order to these people.

## What If I Can't Come to the Hearing?

If you can't travel to the hearing, you can sign the Voluntary Relinquishment before a judge in Utah, or another state, or before a public officer appointed by such a judge. The judge or appointed officer must certify that you have read the document, understand it, and have signed it freely and voluntarily. Once the Voluntary Relinquishment is signed properly, then it is your responsibility to file the original with the court in Utah where you filed the initial petition.

## Talk to an Attorney

Relinquishing your parental rights is a serious decision. Consider talking to an attorney to go over your options. One way to talk to an attorney is to visit a free legal clinic. Clinics provide general legal information and give brief legal advice.

#### References

Fees:

http://www.utcourts.gov/resources/fees.htm

Waiver of Fees:

http://www.utcourts.gov/resources/forms/#Waiver\_of\_Court\_Fees

Finding an Attorney:

http://www.utcourts.gov/howto/legalassist/

Free Legal Clinics:

http://www.utcourts.gov/howto/legalclinics/

Going to Court:

http://www.utcourts.gov/howto/pro\_se/

Service:

http://www.utcourts.gov/howto/service/service\_of\_process.html

### Statutes:

See Utah Code §78A-6-514 for the state's voluntary relinquishment of parental rights law:

http://le.utah.gov/~code/TITLE78A/htm/78A06072.htm

See Utah Code §78B-6-124 for persons who may take consents and relinquishments:

http://le.utah.gov/~code/TITLE78B/htm/78B06025.htm

# Tab 5

My Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone	
E-mail	
I am the Defendant/Respondent Attorney for the Defendant/Respond	dent/ and my Utah Bar number is
In the District Co	urt of Utah
Judicial District	County
Court Address	·
Plaintiff/Petitioner	Answer
	Case Number
V.	Judge
Defendant/Respondent	Commissioner
Defendant/Respondent answers the Complaint	as follows:
(1) Defendant/Respondent admits all the all paragraphs in the Complaint:	egations contained in the following
(2) Defendant/Respondent denies all the all paragraphs in the Complaint:	egations contained in the following
	<u> </u>

(3)	Referring to paragraph in the Complaint, Defendant/Respondent states that [add more paragraphs if needed]:	
(4)	Referring to paragraph in the Complaint, Defendant/Respondent states that:	
(5)	Referring to paragraph in the Complaint, Defendant/Respondent states that:	
Defenses		
	[If you know any reason why the plaintiff/petitioner should not win the case, other than what you have already stated in your answers above, write it here. Add more paragraphs if needed.]	

Prayer
[Explain each of the things you want the court to do. For example, "I ask the court to dismiss the Complaint." Add more paragraphs if needed.]
(2)
(3)
Defendant/Respondent also asks for such other relief as the court finds equitable and just.
I declare under criminal penalty of Utah Code Section 78B-5-705 that this Answer is true and correct.
Date Sign here ▶
Typed or printed name

Certificate of Service			
I certify that I served a copy of this Answer on the following people.			
Person's Name	Method of Service	Served at this Address	Served on this Date
(Other Party or Attorney)			
(Clerk of Court)	☐ Mail ☐ Hand Delivery ☐ Electronic File		
	Mail Hand Delivery Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.) Email (Person agreed to service by email.) Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.) Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.) Mail Hand Delivery		
	Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)  Email (Person agreed to service by email.)  Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)  Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)		
Date	Sign here ▶		
	Typed or printed name		

# **Answering a Summons and Complaint**

## Information & Instructions

## **Answering a Summons and Complaint**

The person who has filed a legal action against you is the **plaintiff** or **petitioner**. You are the **defendant** or **respondent**. This packet provides information and sample forms to help you respond to the legal action the plaintiff has filed against you. The plaintiff has notified you about their legal action by serving a summons and complaint on you.

Read the papers you received carefully. The summons tells you how many days from the date you were served you have to answer the complaint. The complaint tells you what the plaintiff wants the court to order.

## Don't ignore the summons and complaint!

If you do not answer within the specified time, the plaintiff can ask for a "default judgment," which means they win the case and you may never have a chance to tell the court your side of the story.

Utah Rule of Civil Procedure 6 explains how to count days:

- You **do not** count the day the time period begins to run
- You **do** count the last day, **unless** it is a Saturday, Sunday or a legal holiday

There are other requirements, so be sure to read the rule carefully.

If you need more time to answer the complaint, contact the other party's attorney or the other party (if they don't have an attorney).

- If they agree to allow you more time, send them a letter describing what you agreed to. Keep a copy for yourself.
- If they do not agree, you must file an answer within the time or risk a default judgment.

## Fill Out the Paperwork

Read carefully the complaint, and then provide the following information, as appropriate:

- Write your name and contact information in the upper left hand corner of the Answer form.
- From the Complaint, copy the name and address of the court. Write in the plaintiff's name and the defendant's name (your name) and copy the case number, judge, and commissioner (if any) from the Complaint.
- Admit the truth of the paragraphs where the allegations are true.

- Deny the truth of the paragraphs where the allegations are incorrect.
- Respond to paragraphs that are not completely true or false. Write out an
  explanation of what is true and what is not for each paragraph that falls into this
  category.
- Raise any defenses, such as the plaintiff made a procedural mistake, like not serving you properly. Each defense should be a separately numbered paragraph. See Rule of Civil Procedure 8(b) for a list of defenses that **must** be included in an answer if you want to use them later in court. An example of an affirmative defense would be that you were not properly served.
- The Prayer section is where you ask the court to do something. For example, you could ask the court to dismiss the plaintiff's complaint. The word "Prayer" in this situation is not a religious prayer. It's a request to the court.
- Date and sign your Answer.

## File the Paperwork

Once you have completed in writing the Answer, file it in the court. To "file" papers with the court is the process of giving them to the clerks' office. You can file papers with the court in person or by mail. If you file by mail, make sure you give yourself enough time to meet the filing deadline. Papers are not considered filed until the court receives them – not when you mail them.

Make two copies of everything you file: one copy for you, and one for the other party. Send a copy of the Answer to the party, or the party's attorney, who filed the action against you.

A Certificate of Service is included with the Answer. Complete the Certificate of Service and file the original Answer and Certificate of Service in the court. You must make sure the plaintiff, or plaintiff's attorney, receives a copy of the completed Answer and Certificate of Service and you should keep a copy for your files.

### Going to Trial

After you have filed your Answer, the plaintiff will send you other papers or have a date scheduled for trial. You should respond in writing to all papers that you receive and file any original with the court, provide a copy to the plaintiff, and keep a copy for yourself. You should appear in court any time you receive a notice to do so.

If a date is set for a trial, be prepared to present any witnesses or evidence you have. You may also receive written documents called "Interrogatories," "Request for Production of Documents," or "Admissions." You must respond to these by answering the questions asked or sending copies of the documents requested. In many cases, the court will require you and the plaintiff to try to reach a settlement before any hearings or trial may take place.

## Talk to an Attorney

Answering a complaint and/or going to trial can be complicated. Consider talking to an attorney to go over your options. One way to talk to an attorney is to visit a free legal clinic. Clinics provide general legal information and give brief legal advice.

### References

Finding an Attorney:

http://www.utcourts.gov/howto/legalassist/

Free Legal Clinics:

http://www.utcourts.gov/howto/legalclinics/

Going to Court:

http://www.utcourts.gov/howto/pro\_se/

Mediation:

http://www.utcourts.gov/mediation/

Service:

http://www.utcourts.gov/howto/service/service\_of\_process.html

Utah Rules of Civil Procedure

http://www.utcourts.gov/resources/rules/

Utah Bar number is	ner   Defendant/Respondent and my		
In the District Jus	stice Court of Utah		
Judicial District	County		
Court Address			
Plaintiff/Petitioner	Affidavit of(name)		
	, ,		
V.	Case Number		
Defendant/Deen and ant	Judge		
Defendant/Respondent	Commissioner		
(1) Being under oath, I swear or affirm that:			
(2) I am the Plaintiff/Petitioner Defen	dant/Respondent		
in this matter.			
(3) I am making this affidavit for the purpose	of:		
(4) I further swear or affirm that:			

Date Sign here ▶
Typed or printed name
I certify that, who is known to me or who presented satisfactory identification, has, while in my presence and while under oath or affirmation, voluntarily signed this document and declared that it is true.
Date: Sign here ▶
Typed or printed name
Notary Seal

Certificate of Service				
I certify that I served a copy of this Affidavit on the following people.				
		Served at this	Served on	
Person's Name	Method of Service	Address	this Date	
	☐ Hand Delivery			
	Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)			
	Email (Person agreed to service by email.)			
	Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)			
	Left at home (With person of suitable age			
(Other Party or Attorney)	and discretion residing there.)			
	☐ Mail			
	☐ Hand Delivery			
(Clerk of Court)	☐ Electronic File			
	☐ Mail			
	☐ Hand Delivery			
	Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)			
	Email (Person agreed to service by email.)			
	Left at business (With person in charge			
	or in receptacle for deliveries.)			
	Left at home (With person of suitable age			
	and discretion residing there.)			
Date	Sign here ▶			
	Typed or printed name			

My Name Address City, State, Zip Phone E-mail	
I am the Plaintiff/Petitioner Defendant/Respondent Attorney for the Plaintiff/Petition Utah Bar number is	er   Defendant/Respondent and my
In the 🗌 District 🗌 Just	ice Court of Utah
Judicial District,	County
Court Address	
Plaintiff/Petitioner	Memorandum of Costs and Attorney Fees
V.	Case Number
	Judge
Defendant/Respondent	Commissioner
Instructions: Use this form for claims for costs pursuant to must be filed with the court and served on the party against days after the entry of judgment. Add continuation pages in	st whom costs are being claimed within five
(1) These costs are necessary to this case, a	and the amounts are correct.
(2) Costs	Amount
Filing fees	\$
☐ Jury fee	\$
Service of process or subpoena fees	\$
☐ Mediation fees	\$

(2)	Costs	Amount
	☐ Discovery fees	\$
	Appraisal fees	\$
	☐ Witness fees	\$
	Preparation of exhibit fees	\$
	☐ Interpreter fees	\$
	Certification fees	\$
	☐ Transcript fees	\$
	Other costs (Please itemize.)	\$
	Total costs	\$
(3)	Attorney fees. I am admitted to the pract Plaintiff/Petitioner Defendant/Respounder:  the contract between the parties. Utah Code Section This claim for attorney fees is according amount of the judgment is \$  For claims not in accordance with URCP 73(d), file a declaration under URCP 73(b).	ndent. Attorney fees are allowed  to the schedule in URCP 73(d) The the attorney fees are
NOTICE TO THE PARTY AGAINST WHOM COSTS AND ATTORNEY FEES ARE CLAIMED. If you disagree with the amounts claimed, file a motion opposing the award within 7 days after being served with the Memorandum of Costs and Attorney Fees.		
	are under criminal penalty of Utah Code Sect sts and Attorney Fees is true and correct.	ion 78B-5-705 that this Memorandum
Date _	Sign here ▶	
	Typed or printed name	

Certificate of Service			
I certify that I served a copy of this Memorandum of Costs and Attorney Fees on the following people.			
		Served at this	Served on
Person's Name	Method of Service	Address	this Date
	│		
	Hand Delivery		
	Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)		
	Email (Person agreed to service by email.)		
	Left at business (With person in charge		
	or in receptacle for deliveries.)  Left at home (With person of suitable age		
(Other Party or Attorney)	and discretion residing there.)		
	☐ Mail		
	Hand Delivery		
(Clerk of Court)	☐ Electronic File		
	☐ Mail		
	☐ Hand Delivery		
	Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)		
	Email (Person agreed to service by email.)		
	Left at business (With person in charge		
	or in receptacle for deliveries.)		
	Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)		
	Mail		
	☐ Hand Delivery		
	Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)		
	Email (Person agreed to service by email.)		
	Left at business (With person in charge		
	or in receptacle for deliveries.)		
	Left at home (With person of suitable age		
and discretion residing there.)			
Date	Sign here ►		
Typed or printed name			

My Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone	
E-mail	
I am the Plaintiff/Petitioner Defendant/Respondent	
In the District 0	Court of Utah
Judicial District	County
Court Address	
Plaintiff/Petitioner	Notice of Entry of Appearance Pro Se
Plaintin/Petitioner	Case Number
V.	Judge
Defendant/Degrandent	_
Defendant/Respondent	Commissioner
(1) was my attorney of record in this matte	[name of your former attorney], who r, withdrew. I now represent myself.
(2) I will comply with the existing hearing so court and all parties of my current address.	
I declare under criminal penalty of Utah Code Entry of Appearance Pro Se is true and correct	
Date Sign here	<b>&gt;</b>
Typed or printed nar	me

Certificate of Service			
I certify that I served a copy of this Notice of Entry of Appearance Pro Se on the following people.			
		Served at this	Served on
Person's Name	Method of Service	Address	this Date
	Hand Delivery		
	Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)		
	Email (Person agreed to service by email.)		
	Left at business (With person in charge or in receptacle for deliveries.)		
	Left at home (With person of suitable age		
(Other Party or Attorney)	and discretion residing there.)		
	☐ Mail		
	☐ Hand Delivery		
(Clerk of Court)	☐ Electronic File		
	☐ Mail		
	Hand Delivery		
	Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)		
	Email (Person agreed to service by email.)		
	Left at business (With person in charge		
	or in receptacle for deliveries.)		
	Left at home (With person of suitable age and discretion residing there.)		
	Mail		
	Hand Delivery		
	Fax (Person agreed to service by fax.)		
	Email (Person agreed to service by email.)		
	Left at business (With person in charge		
	or in receptacle for deliveries.)		
	Left at home (With person of suitable age		
	and discretion residing there.)		
Date	Sign here ►		
Typed or printed name			

•	Name	
Addr		
	State, Zip	
Phor	<del></del>	
E-ma	all	
I am	the Plaintiff/Petitioner Defendant/Respondent Attorney for the Plaintiff/Petit Utah Bar number is	ioner   Defendant/Respondent and my
	In the District	Court of Utah
	Judicial Distric	t County
Co	urt Address	·
		De marent de O. Landt fan De staten
 Plair	ntiff/Petitioner	Request to Submit for Decision
		☐ Request for Hearing
V.		Case Number
Dofo	andant/Dagnandant	Judge
Dele	endant/Respondent	
		Commissioner
(1)	<del></del>	r's Defendant/Respondent's Motion to name of motion) be submitted for decision.
(2)	The motion was served on	(date).
(3)	☐ The memorandum in opposition w☐ There was no memorandum in op	vas served on (date). pposition.
(4)	The reply to the memorandum in date).	opposition was served on
	☐ There was no reply to the memora	andum in opposition.
(5)	The motion is ready for the court to re	eview.

<ul><li>(6) ☐ A hearing ☐ has ☐ has not been requested.</li><li>☐ I request a hearing.</li></ul>			
I declare under crimin Submit for Decision is	al penalty of Utah Code Section 78	B-5-705 that this Re	quest to
Date	Sign here ▶		
	Typed or printed name		
	Contitionts of Commiss		
	Certificate of Service		
I certify that I serve	ed a copy of this Request to Submit for Dec	cision on the following pe	eople.
Person's Name	Method of Service	Served at this Address	Served on this Date
(Other Party or Attorney) (Clerk of Court)	Mail		
Date	Sign here ▶		

My Name			
Address			
City, State, Zip			
Phone			
E-mail			
	In the District Dus		
Court Address			
Diginstiff/Desistion or		Proof of Service of Complaint and	
Plaintiff/Petitioner		Summons	
V.		Case Number	
		Judge	
Defendant/Respondent		Commissioner	
(1)			
(2)  (If applicable) The person to be served refused service, so I stated the name of the process and offer to deliver a copy to the person.			
(3) On		(date), I served the	
Defendant/Respondent with the Complaint and Summons by delivering a copy of			
the complaint	and summons to		
<del></del>		(name), who is:	
Serving an	the Defendant/Resp	oondent, at	
individual by delivery	(address).		

Serving an individual by	a person of suitable age and discretion residing at
leaving at home	(address), the Defendant/Respondent's dwelling house or usual place of abode.
Serving an individual by delivery to an	an agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of process, at
agent	(address).
Serving a minor	the minor Defendant/Respondent at
	(address), and also to
	(name), the minor's parent or guardian, at
	(address).
Serving an incapacitated person	the Defendant/Respondent, who has been judicially declared to be of unsound mind or incapable of conducting his/her own affairs, at
	(address), and also to
	(name), the person's legal representative, at
	(address).
Serving an incarcerated or committed person	the Defendant/Respondent, who is incarcerated or committed at a facility operated by the state or any of its political subdivisions, at
	(address), and also to
	(name), who is
	the person who has the care, custody, or control of Defendant/Respondent's or that person's designee,
	the Defendant/Respondent's guardian or conservator,
	(address).

Serving a	an officer, a managing agent, general agent		
corporation, partnership, or an unincorporated association	an agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of process and by also mailing a copy of the complaint and summons to the Defendant/Respondent, which the statute requires, at		
	(address).		
Serving a municipality	the municipal the recorder, at		
	(address).		
Serving a county	the county clerk, at		
	(address).		
Serving a school district or board of	the superintendent or business administrator of the board, at		
education	(address).		
Serving a irrigation or drainage district	the president or secretary of the board, at		
	(address).		
Serving the state	the attorney general, at		
	(address), and to		
	of any other person or agency required by statute to be served) at		
	(address).		
Serving a department of agency of the state	a member of its governing board, executive employee or secretary, at		
	(address).		
I declare under criminal penalty of Utah Code Section 78B-5-705 that this Proof of Service of Complaint and Summons is true and correct.			
Date         Sign here ▶			
Typed or printed name			