

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LAWRENCE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

_____, : Docket No. _____ of _____, C.A.
_____, :
Plaintiff(s), :
vs. :
_____, :
_____, :
Defendant(s). :

COMPLAINT FOR CUSTODY

1. The Plaintiff(s) herein is/are:

NAME	ADDRESS	COUNTY

2. The Defendant(s) herein is/are:

NAME	ADDRESS	COUNTY

3. The Plaintiff(s) seek(s): (select one regarding legal custody and one regarding physical custody) ☐ (shared legal custody) ☐ (sole legal custody) and ☐ (partial physical custody) ☐ (primary physical custody) ☐ (shared physical custody) ☐ (sole physical custody) ☐ (supervised physical custody) of the following child(ren):

Child's Initials	Present Residence	Age	Born out of Wedlock?

b. The minor child(ren) is/are presently in the custody of:

NAME	ADDRESS	COUNTY

c. During the last five years, the minor child(ren) has/have resided with the following persons and at the following addresses:

Child's Initials	List All Persons	List all addresses	Dates
			From _____ to present
			From _____ to _____
			From _____ to _____
			From _____ to _____

d. A parent of the minor child(ren) is:

NAME	ADDRESS	MARITAL STATUS
		(married) (divorced) (single)

e. A parent of the minor child(ren) is:

NAME	ADDRESS	MARITAL STATUS
		(married) (divorced) (single)

4. The Plaintiff's relationship to the minor child(ren) is that of _____ . The Plaintiff resides with the following persons:

Name	Relationship

5. The Defendant's relationship to the minor child(ren) is that of _____ . The Plaintiff resides with the following persons:

Name	Relationship

6. a. The Plaintiff (has) (has not) participated as a party or witness, or in another capacity, in other litigation concerning the custody of the minor child(ren) in this or another Court. The Court, term and number, and its relationship to this action is:

Name of Court and Location	Docket Term and Number	Relationship to this Action

b. The Plaintiff (has) (has no) information of a custody proceeding concerning the minor child(ren) pending in a court of this Commonwealth or any other state. If applicable, the Court, term and number, and its relationship to this action is:

Name of Court and Location	Docket Term and Number	Relationship to this Action

c. The Plaintiff (knows) (does not know) of a person not a party to the proceedings who has physical custody of the minor child(ren) or claims to have custodial rights with respect to the minor child(ren). If applicable, the name and address of such person is:

Name	Address

7. The minor child(ren)'s best interest and permanent welfare will be served by granting the relief requested because (set forth facts showing that the granting of the relief requested will be in the minor child(ren)'s best interest and permanent welfare):

8. Each parent whose parental rights to the minor child(ren) have not been terminated and the person who has physical custody of the minor child(ren) have been named as parties to this action. All other persons, named below, who are known to have or claim a right to custody of the minor child(ren) will be given notice of the pendency of this action and the right to intervene:

Name	Address	Basis of Claim

9. **Standing**

a. If the Plaintiff is seeking physical or legal custody of a minor child and is *in loco parentis* to the minor child(ren), the Plaintiff shall plead facts established under 23 Pa.C.S.A. § 5324(2):

b. If the Plaintiff is a grandparent seeking physical or legal custody of a grandchild and is not *in loco parentis* to the minor child(ren), the Plaintiff shall plead facts establishing standing under 23 Pa.C.S.A. § 5324(3):

c. If the Plaintiff is seeking physical or legal custody of a minor child and is not *in loco parentis* to the minor child(ren), the Plaintiff shall plead facts establishing standing pursuant to 23 Pa.C.S.A. § 5324(4) and (5):

d. If the Plaintiff is a grandparent or great-grandparent seeking partial physical custody of a grandchild or great-grandchild, the Plaintiff shall plead facts establishing standing under 23 Pa.C.S.A. § 5325:

10. The Plaintiff has attached the Criminal Record Abuse/History Verification form required pursuant to Pa.R.Civ.P. 1915.3-2.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff(s) request(s) this Court to grant (select one regarding legal custody and one regarding physical custody) ☐ (shared legal custody) ☐ (sole legal custody) and ☐ (partial physical custody) ☐ (primary physical custody) ☐ (shared physical custody) ☐ (sole physical custody) ☐ (supervised physical custody) of the minor child(ren).

(Date)

(Plaintiff/Attorney for the Plaintiff)

(Date)

(Plaintiff)

I verify that the statements made in this Complaint are true and correct. I understand that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

(Date)

(Plaintiff)

(Date)

(Plaintiff)

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_____, : Docket No. _____ of _____, C.A.
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_____, :
_____, :
Defendant(s). :

ORDER OF COURT – COMPLAINT FOR CUSTODY
(to be completed by the Court)

You, _____, (Defendants)
have been sued in Court to obtain:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (sole legal custody) | <input type="checkbox"/> (partial physical custody) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (shared legal custody) | <input type="checkbox"/> (primary physical custody) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> (shared physical custody) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> (sole physical custody) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> (supervised physical custody) |

of the minor child(ren): (Initials only): _____

You are hereby **ORDERED** to appear in person at the Lawrence County Government Center located at 430 Court Street, New Castle, Pennsylvania, 16101 on the _____ day of _____, 20____ at _____ o'clock _____.m. for:

_____ a Custody Conciliation Conference in _____
_____ a Pretrial Conference in Courtroom No. _____
_____ a hearing before the Court in Courtroom No _____

If you fail to appear as provided by this Order, an order for custody may be entered against you or the Court may issue a warrant for your arrest.

You must file with the Court a verification regarding any criminal record or abuse history regarding you and any member of your household at the initial in-person contact with the Court (including, but not limited to, a conference with a conference officer or Judge or conciliation) or within thirty days of service of the initiating pleading, whichever occurs first.

No party may make a change in the residency of any child which significantly impairs the ability of the other party to exercise custodial rights without first complying with all of the applicable provisions of 23 Pa.C.S. § 5337 and Pa.R.Civ.P. 1915.17 regarding relocation.

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW. THIS OFFICE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT HIRING A LAWYER. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE A LAWYER, THIS OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AGENCIES THAT MAY OFFER LEGAL SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS AT A REDUCED FEE OR NO FEE.

**LAWYER REFERRAL
LAWRENCE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
430 COURT STREET
NEW CASTLE, PENNSYLVANIA 16101
(724) 656-1921**

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

The Court of Common Pleas of Lawrence County is required by law to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For information about accessible facilities and reasonable accommodations available to disabled individuals having business before the Court, please contact our office. All arrangements must be made at least 72 hours prior to any hearing or business before the Court. You must attend the scheduled conference or hearing.

BY THE COURT:

Date: _____

J.