

SUPERIOR COURT OF GWINNETT COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

Petitioner,		Civil Action
v.		File No.: _____
Respondent.		

PETITION FOR LEGITIMATION
 AND CUSTODY/VISITATION

My name is _____

I am representing myself in this legitimation petition. In support of my case, I state the following:

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

- (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 only one of the following, either (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f).]

- (a) The Respondent is a resident of Gwinnett County, Georgia.
- (b) The Respondent is a resident of _____
County, Georgia, and I live in Gwinnett 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 Gwinnett County and my child(ren) reside(s) in Georgia.

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

(e) The Respondent's whereabouts are unknown to me, but I am a resident of Gwinnett County and my child(ren) reside in Georgia. I am filing my *Affidavit of Due Diligence* with this *Petition*, and incorporate it here by reference.

(f) The Respondent's whereabouts are unknown to me, but my child(ren) reside(s) in Gwinnett County. I am filing my *Affidavit of Due Diligence* with this *Petition*, and incorporate it here by reference.

3. **Service of Process:** The Respondent shall be served as provided under OCGA § 9-11-4, in the following manner:

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

(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 *Affidavit of Due Diligence* 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:

4. **Minor Child(ren):**

I am the father of the minor child(ren), listed below:

Name of child	Sex	Year of Birth	Lives with (mother, father, other)
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The minor child(ren) was/were born out of wedlock.

5. **Child(ren)'s Current Residence:**

Child(ren)'s current address: _____

City, State ZIP _____

County: _____

The child(ren) has/have lived at this address since approximately (month and year): _____

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

Current Address

Name of Person	Current Address
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
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<hr/>	<hr/>
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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:**

[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) from:

_____ to _____

_____ to _____

_____ to _____

_____ to _____

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

14. **Child Custody and Visitation:** I am a fit and capable parent, and I believe that the following custody arrangement is in the best interests of the children:
[*Check only one of the following, either (a), (b), (c) or (d).*]

- (a) I should have legal and physical custody.
- (b) The Respondent and I should share joint legal custody but I should have primary physical custody and the Respondent should have visitation.
- (c) The Respondent and I should share joint legal custody but the Respondent should have primary physical custody and I should have visitation.
- (d) Other custody arrangement:

Permanent Parenting Plan. I understand I am required to prepare a Parenting Plan which:

- I am filing a Parenting Plan at the same time with this *Petition*.
- I will file a Parenting Plan before the first hearing in this case.

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 already paying child support. The child support order is attached to this *Petition* and marked as Exhibit "A." I am asking the Court to:
 - Adopt the existing order without changes
 - Modify the child support order
- (d) I am not asking the Court to address this issue in this case.
- (e) The issue of child support cannot be decided in this action because the Court 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), and the Respondent should be required to reimburse me for a fair share of the cost each month.
- (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.

17. **Other Medical Expenses for Child(ren):**

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

- (a) The Respondent should be responsible for all expenses incurred for the child(ren)'s medical, dental and hospital care, that are not covered by insurance.
- (b) The Respondent and I should share the cost of expenses incurred for the child(ren)'s medical, dental and hospital care, that are not covered by insurance.
- (c) I am not asking the Court to address this issue in this case.
- (d) The issue of health care expenses for the child(ren) cannot be decided in this action because the Court does not have personal jurisdiction over the Respondent.

18. **Life Insurance to Support Child(ren):**

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

- (a) The child(ren) depend(s) on the Respondent for support, and therefore the Respondent should maintain a policy of insurance on the Respondent's life, for the benefit of the minor child(ren). The Respondent should maintain the policy for so long as at least one of the children is a minor or is otherwise entitled to child support.
- (b) I am not asking the Court to address this issue in this case.
- (c) The issue of life insurance for the child(ren) 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 a 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 nanner as if the child(ren) had been born in wedlock;
- (b) That the name of the child(ren) be changed according to Paragraph 12;
- (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, health insurance, medical expenses and life insurance for the support of the child(ren) be ordered according to Paragraphs 15, 16, 17 and 18;
- (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 the parties to participate in mediation, to try to resolve this matter; and
- (i) That the Court order any and all other relief that the Court finds appropriate.

Dated: _____

Petitioner *Pro se* [signature]

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State ZIP

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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VERIFICATION

The Petitioner, duly sworn and affirmed, has read this document and states that the facts contained in the *Petition for Legitimation and Custody/Visitation* are true and correct.

Petitioner, *Pro se* (signature)

SWORN AND AFFIRMED before me this
____ day of _____, 20____.

NOTARY PUBLIC