

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY**

STANDING FAMILY LAW COURT ORDER

Pursuant to Administrative Order, this order applies to both parties in dissolution of marriage, paternity and support actions. It informs the parties about their duties and responsibilities, as well as issues that may arise during their court proceeding. It is important for the parties to preserve their assets, act in the best interests of their children and comply with all Court rules and orders. The terms of this order are effective with regard to the Petitioner upon filing of the petition. The terms of this order apply to the Respondent upon service of the summons and petition, or upon waiver and acceptance of service. The terms of this order will remain in place during the pendency of this action unless modified, terminated, or amended by further order of the Court. Therefore, the parties are hereby advised and ORDERED:

1. **ATTENDING AN APPROVED 4-HOUR PARENTING COURSE.** Pursuant to § 61.21, Florida Statutes, in all cases involving a determination of parental responsibility or time-sharing, both parties are required to attend and complete a Parent Education and Family Stabilization Course. The Petitioner is to complete the course within 45 days of the filing of the petition and the Respondent within 45 days of service of the petition. A list of approved courses and providers may be obtained from the Clerk of the Court or online at www.circuit7.org.
2. **BRINGING MINOR CHILDREN TO COURT TO TESTIFY REQUIRES A COURT ORDER.** Pursuant to Rule 12.407, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, an order must be obtained from the judge before a minor child may testify in a court proceeding. Therefore, except in certain circumstances (ie. dependency, delinquency, adoption, name change) children may not attend court proceedings unless the judge has issued an order allowing them to testify.
3. **RELOCATION OF CHILDREN.** Neither party may permanently relocate minor children of the parties to a location that is fifty (50) miles or more from their primary residence, nor cause minor children of the parties to be moved fifty (50) miles or more from their primary residence without the written consent of the other party, or without an order from the judge. In addition, any relocation of minor children of the parties must comply with the provisions of § 61.13001, Florida Statutes.
4. **CHILD SUPPORT.** If there is an existing court order regarding child support (including a domestic violence injunction), or a child support agreement signed by both parties, the parties must continue to follow the terms of that order or agreement. If the parties have minor children and choose to live apart while the action is pending, the parent with whom the children are not residing for a majority of the time should make voluntary payments of child support to the other parent, prior to the entry of an order requiring payment of child support. Since child support can be ordered retroactively, it is advisable that the party making payments keep proof of said payments and bring them to court. Signed receipts should be obtained for any cash payments. Unless the party making payments can prove they were made, they may not receive proper credit for having made them. Parent/child access and child support are separate and distinct under the law. Accordingly, a child's right to have access to his/her parent is not contingent upon the payment of child support. That means a parent may not deny access to the children solely because the other parent is delinquent on a support obligation.
5. **CONTACT WITH BOTH PARENTS.** It is the public policy of the State of Florida that it is in the best interest of children that their parents confer with each other and jointly make all major decisions affecting the welfare of their children. Except in certain circumstances, contact with both parents is generally believed to be in the children's best interest and children are entitled to have frequent and continuing contact with both parents when the parents separate or divorce. Further, each parent has an affirmative obligation to encourage and nurture a relationship between the children and the other parent. Neither parent may restrict the other's contact with the children unless by Court order.
6. **FINANCIAL AFFIDAVIT.** Pursuant to Rule 12.285(b) Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, each party must file a Family Law Financial Affidavit [form 12.902(b) or (c)] with the Clerk of the Court, ten (10) days prior to the first hearing where financial relief is sought by either party, or ten (10) days prior to the first Case Management Conference, whichever occurs first.

7. **MAINTAINING FINANCIAL STATUS.** Neither party in a dissolution of marriage action may conceal, damage, deplete, encumber, transfer, assign nor dispose of any asset, whether jointly or separately owned, nor may either party dissipate the value of any asset, except by written consent of the parties or court order. In addition, neither party may incur any unreasonable debts, including, but not limited to, further unreasonable use of credit/bank cards or cash advances against credit/bank cards. Neither party may cancel, nor cause to be canceled, any utility services, including, but not limited to, telephone, cell phone, Internet, electric, water or sewer. Notwithstanding, the parties may spend their incomes in the ordinary course of their business, personal and family affairs. Neither party may conceal, hoard, nor waste jointly-owned funds, whether in the form of cash, bank accounts, retirement accounts, or other highly liquid assets, except that said funds can be spent for the necessities of life. Reasonable attorney's fees and costs are "necessities." Both parties must be prepared to account for the use of funds or income after separation.
8. **INSURANCES.** Each party must maintain existing beneficiaries of any life insurance policies. Each party must maintain existing life insurance, automobile insurance, homeowner's and/or renter's insurance policies in full force and effect. Neither party may remove, nor cause to be removed, the other party or children from any medical, hospital or dental insurance coverages. Each party must maintain existing medical, hospital and dental insurance coverage in full force and effect.
9. **REQUIRED NOTICE.** Except in instances where the judge has issued an order to the contrary, each party must provide his/her residence address, email address, and phone numbers (residence, work & cell) to the other party. Likewise, each party must communicate any and all changes to this information to the other party.

FAILURE TO OBEY THIS ORDER MAY BE PUNISHABLE BY CONTEMPT OF COURT

If you wish to modify this order, you must file an appropriate motion with the Family Law division of the Clerk's Office in the county where the action is pending.