

Superior Court of Washington, County of _____

In re custody of:

Children:

Petitioner/s (*person/s who started this case*):

Respondents (*parents and any guardian or custodian*):

No. _____

Summons: Notice about Non-Parent
Custody Petition
(SM)

Summons: Notice about Non-Parent Custody Petition

To the Respondents: The Petitioner/s started a case asking for custody of the children listed above. You must respond in writing for the court to consider your side.

Deadline! Your *Response* must be served on the Petitioner within **20 days** of the date you were served this *Summons* (60 days if you were served outside of Washington State). If the case has been filed, you must also file your *Response* by the same deadline. If you do not file and serve your *Response* or a *Notice of Appearance* by the deadline:

- No one has to notify you about other hearings in this case, and
- The court may approve the Petitioner's requests without hearing your side (called a *default judgment*).

Follow these steps:

1. **Read** the *Petition* and any other documents you receive with this *Summons*. These documents explain what the Petitioner is asking for.
2. **Fill out** the *Response to Non-Parent Custody Petition* (form FL Non-Parent 415). You can get the *Response* and other forms at:
 - The Washington State Courts' website: www.courts.wa.gov/forms
 - The Administrative Office of the Courts – call: (360) 705-5328

- Washington LawHelp: www.washingtonlawhelp.org, or
 - The Superior Court Clerk's office or county law library (for a fee).
3. **Serve** (give) a copy of your *Response* to the Petitioner at the address below, and to any other Respondent. You may use certified mail with return receipt requested. For more information on how to serve, read Superior Court Civil Rule 5.
4. **File** your original *Response* with the court clerk at this address:

Superior Court Clerk, _____ County

address *city* *state* *zip*

If there is no "Case No." listed on page 1, this case may not have been filed and you will not be able to file a *Response*. Contact the Superior Court Clerk or check www.courts.wa.gov to find out.

If the case was **not** filed, you must still serve your *Response*, and you may demand that the Petitioner file this case with the court. Your demand must be in writing and must be served on the Petitioner or his/her lawyer (whoever signed this *Summons*). If the Petitioner does not file papers for this case within 14 days of being served with your demand, this service on you of the *Summons* and *Petition* will not be valid. If the Petitioner does file, then you must file your original *Response* with the court clerk at the address above.

5. **Lawyer not required:** It's a good idea to talk to a lawyer, but you may file and serve your *Response* without one.

Petitioner or his/her lawyer fills out below

▶ _____

Signature of Petitioner or lawyer *Date*

Print name (and WSBA No., if lawyer)

I agree to accept legal papers for this case at (*check one*):

my lawyer's address:

lawyer's address *city* *state* *zip*

Email (*if applicable*): _____

the following address (*this does not have to be your home address*):

address *city* *state* *zip*

(Optional) email: _____

(If this address changes before the case ends, you must notify all parties and the court clerk in writing. You may use the Notice of Address Change form (FL All Family 120). You must also update your Confidential Information Form (FL All Family 001) if this case involves parentage or child support.)

This Summons is issued according to Rule 4.1 of the Superior Court Civil Rules of the State of Washington.