PRESUMED FATHER'S PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF NON-PATERNITY

FORMS

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(These forms shall be used by men who want the court to find they are not the father of children born to their wives during the marriage.)

Introduction

These forms are available to you at no cost on the Representing Yourself website. Some courts may provide paper copies of these forms for a fee. Only a lawyer may charge you a fee for preparing these forms. You are required to complete the Litigant Awareness Program on selfrepresent.mo.gov before preparing these forms. Your local court may also have other educational programs available to help you in the preparation of these forms.

General Information about Forms

The forms must be downloaded with Adobe Acrobat Reader or Adobe Acrobat DC to save the information you enter. Adobe Acrobat Reader DC is available for free from the Adobe website. Save the forms before you begin entering information. After you have filled in the forms on your computer, save the information and print the forms to file them with the court.

If you are working on a public computer, **don't save your personal information on the public computer**. Use a USB memory stick or other removable device.

The forms listed below are interactive. If you fill in the forms on your computer, some of the information you enter on one line may automatically transfer to another line. The forms also contain bookmarks that help you to navigate through the forms. In addition, there are "links" embedded in the forms. These links are usually blue and can take you to a related location in the forms or to a related website.

Most documents that are filed with the court can be seen by anyone online. Some information on documents is considered confidential and **must** be removed or hidden.

▶ If you are filing a document with the court YOU must be aware of what information is considered confidential.

What is confidential information?

Confidential information often used in family court matters can include information listed in Court Operating Rule 2.02(c). This is not a complete list. If you are filing attachments to any forms from this website, confidential information might be on those documents also.

► YOU are responsible for <u>redacting</u> (removing) information you are filing with the court that is confidential.

How do I remove information?

Redact means to remove or hide information listed on a document before you file it with the court. Below are two ways you can redact confidential information:

Option One

- 1) Fill out your documents completely (including confidential information).
- 2) Make a copy of all documents that have confidential information.
- 3) Go through the **copied** documents and black out or white out any confidential information.

Option Two

1) Fill out your documents using generic descriptions for any confidential information you do not want to provide. For example, use initials or "Child One" instead of the full name of a child.

If you remove any information, you are required to show the court what you removed when you complete the *Confidential Case Filing Information Sheet* (FI10). Do not redact the *Confidential Case Filing Information Sheet* (FI10) or the *Redaction Certification* form (GN320).

► YOU must confirm you have followed the rules for redaction

How do I do this?

After you have done option one or two above, confirm you have followed the rules by filling out the *Redaction Certification* form (GN320). You have to fill out this form even if you did not remove any information.

- ▶ YOU must file with the court all unredacted <u>and</u> redacted documents and the *Redaction Certification* form (GN320).
- ▶ IF you think SOMEONE HAS NOT CORRECTLY REDACTED INFORMATION, file the *Motion to Correct Redaction* form (GN325) to bring it to the attention of the court. The form is available from the Home page of this website under Approved Court Forms.

You are the Petitioner. The Mother of the children is the Respondent.

The court may appoint a Guardian Ad Litem to represent the children in this action. A Guardian Ad Litem is an independent attorney hired to represent the interests of children in legal proceedings. The court may order one or more parties to pay the Guardian Ad Litem for their time and expenses in representing the children.

What do I need to do?

- 1. <u>Complete</u> the Litigant Awareness Program on selfrepresent.mo.gov. Upon completion, print your Certificate of completion of the Litigant Awareness Program.
- 2. Completely and fully fill out the following forms.
 - 1. Confidential Case Filing Information Sheet (Form FI-10)

This form is required by most courts to enter the information about your case into the court's computer system.

2. Redaction Certification (Form GN320)

The filer certifies that all documents in this submission for filing with the court comply with all redaction requirements of Court Operating Rule 2.

- 3. Presumed Father's Petition for Declaration of Non-Paternity (Form CAFC303)
- 4. Mother's Answer to Presumed Father's Petition for Declaration of Non-Paternity (Form CAFC313-R)

The mother may complete this form in response to your petition. A mother may file this answer with the court if they do not want to be personally served with your petition. By signing this form, the mother is allowing the court to decide your case. The mother may also use this form to disagree with your statements on your forms.

5. Statement of Income and Expenses (For use in Presumed Father's Non-Paternity Action) (Form CAFC254)

This form requires you to list income and expenses for both you and the other parent.

6. Statement of Property and Debt (For use in Presumed Father's Non-Paternity Action) (Form CAFC244)

This form requires you to list your property and debt.

7. Notice of Hearing (Form CAFC721)

In Missouri, the circuit court keeps its schedule of hearings, called the docket. Some circuits require a pretrial hearing, case management, or settlement conference before the final hearing. In some circuits, a litigant will not be placed on the docket automatically, but will need to request a hearing to get on the docket. You should check with your local court to determine how your court schedules its docket.

8. Judgment of Non-Paternity (Form CAFC371)

This is the proposed judgment you will offer to the court. Different courts handle the preparation of the judgment in different ways. In some courts, the judge will direct you to prepare a judgment, and in other courts, the judge will prepare the judgment.

3. <u>File</u> the following signed forms with the court. **As shown below, you may need to file more than one copy of certain forms.**

	Original	Copy of Original for Other Party	Redacted Version (if applicable)
Confidential Case Filing Information Sheet	Х		
Redaction Certification	Х	X	
Presumed Father's Petition for Declaration of	Х	X	X
Non-Paternity			
Statement of Income and Expenses (For use	X	X	X
in Presumed Father's Non-Paternity Action)			
Statement of Property and Debt (For use in	X	X	X
Presumed Father's Non-Paternity Action)			
Family Court Cover Sheet, if it applies	X	X	X
Notice of Hearing	Х	X	X
Judgment of Non-Paternity	Х	X	Х
Certificate of completion of Litigant	Х		
Awareness Program			

- 4. Unless Respondent files *Mother's Answer to Presumed Father's Petition for Declaration of Non-Paternity* before being served, you must file a copy of all of the forms listed above with the court. The copies will be used to personally serve Respondent (Mother) with the forms.
- 5. If Respondent files *Mother's Answer to Presumed Father's Petition for Declaration of Non-Paternity* before being served, you still must provide her with a copy of all the forms, except the Confidential Case Filing Information Sheet.
- 6. You should also keep a copy of these forms for your records.
- 7. You must pay the required filing fee. Check with your local court to determine amounts due.
- 8. You should check with your local court to see if additional forms are required.