IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF Saint Louis County, MISSOURI
(County where court is located. City of Saint Louis is considered a county.)

FILED
NOV 13 2023
JOAN M. GILMER
CIRCUIT CLERK, ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Elijah (First Name) Donovan (Middle Name) Edwards (Last Name) ____ (Jr./Sr./III)
Petitioner, *(Enter your full legal name above)*

v.

Medb (First Name) Celeste (Middle Name) Hoffman (Last Name) ____ (Jr./Sr./III)
Respondent. *(Enter the other parent's full legal name above)*

Case Number 23SL-DR04876
(Will be assigned when case is filed)

Division Number 20
(Will be assigned when case is filed)

Petition for Child Custody and Support

The Parties

This *Petition* is for a parent to ask the court for an order for custody and child support when there is already a legal finding determining who is the father of the minor child(ren). A legal finding of paternity may be a court judgment or an acknowledgment of paternity, which is an affidavit signed by the parents to get the father's name on a child's birth certificate. Genetic (DNA) testing or an administrative child support order done by the Family Support Division are **not** legal findings of paternity.

If there is no legal finding of paternity, the Petitioner must file a petition asking for a paternity judgment. If the parties already have a court judgment that decided paternity, support and/or custody, the Petitioner must file a motion to modify. These forms are different from the *Petition for Child Custody and Support*, but are also available on selfrepresent.mo.gov.

Throughout this case you will always be referred to as the Petitioner. The other parent will be referred to as the Respondent.

1. Petitioner asks the court to make custody and support orders for the following children:

	(First Name)	(Middle Name)	(Last Name)	(Jr./Sr./III)	(Child's Age)
a.	Apollo	James	Edwards		3 months 24 days
b.					
c.					
d.					
e.					
f.					

Information about Petitioner Elijah Donovan Edwards _____
(Enter your name on the lines) *(First Name)* *(Middle Name)* *(Last Name)* *(Jr./Sr./III)*

2. What is your mailing address?
   This is the address the court will use to send information about your case to you. If you move during the time this case is pending, you must send a letter to the court notifying it of your new address. This address is not necessarily the same as the address at which you live. Even if you do not wish to give the address at which you live, you **must** still give the court a mailing address. Because court actions are a matter of public record, the address you list will be available to the public.

   448 Parkview Place Drive
   (Street)

   Ellisville Missouri 63021
   (City) *(State)* *(Zip)*

   (636) 875-3398 elijah.edwards@att.net
   (Telephone Number with Area Code) *(E-mail Address Optional)*

3. What are the last four numbers of your social security number?
   XXX-XX- 4426

4. Are you over the age of eighteen? *(Check one of the two boxes)*
   ☑ Yes ☐ No

5. I live in ☑ the United States ☐ another country, which is _____.

6. I live in ☑ Missouri ☐ another state, which is _____.

7. I live in the county of St. Louis County.
   City of Saint Louis is considered a county. If you live in the city of Saint Louis, you should write "Saint Louis city" in the blank.

8. What is your current employment status? *(Check one of the three boxes)*
   ☑ Employed ☐ Unemployed ☐ Self-employed

9. If you are employed or self-employed, where do you currently work?
   If you are self-employed, enter a brief description of the type of work you perform such as "Landscaping" or "Day care" on the line for the name of your employer. If you are self-employed, you should also enter the address information for your self-employment.

   Jersey Mike's Subs
   (Employer's name or type of self-employment)

   5684 Telegraph Road
   (Street)

   Saint Louis Missouri 63129
   (City) *(State)* *(Zip)*

Information about Respondent

Provide information for the other parent.

Medb Celeste Hoffman
(First Name) (Middle Name) (Last Name) (Jr./Sr./III)
(Enter the full legal name of Respondent on the lines above)

10. What is Respondent's mailing address?
This is the address that the court will use to send information about your case to Respondent. If you do not know the Respondent's current address, you should enter Respondent's last known address.

949 Wynstay Circle
(Street)
Valley Park Missouri 63088
(City) (State) (Zip)
(636) 875-3661 meihoffman@icloud.com
(Telephone Number with Area Code) (E-mail Address - Optional)

11. What are the last four numbers of Respondent's social security number?
Do not leave this field blank. If you do not know Respondent's social security number, enter "Unknown" in this field.
XXX-XX- Unknown

12. Is Respondent over the age of eighteen? *(Check one of the two boxes)*
☑ Yes ☐ No

13. Respondent lives in ☑ the United States ☐ another country, which is _____.

14. Respondent lives in ☑ Missouri ☐ another state, which is _____.

15. Respondent lives in the county of Saint Louis County.
City of Saint Louis is considered a county. If Respondent lives in the city of Saint Louis, you should write "Saint Louis city" in the blank.

16. Respondent is currently ☐ employed ☑ unemployed ☐ self-employed ☐ employment unknown. *(Check one of the four boxes)*

17. If Respondent is employed or self-employed, where do they currently work?
If Respondent is self-employed, enter a brief description of the type of work they perform, such as "Landscaping" or "Day care," on the line for the name of the employer. If Respondent is self-employed you should also enter the address information for their self-employment.

None
(Employer's name or type of self-employment)
n/a
(Street)
n/a
(City) (State) (Zip)

18. Respondent ☐ is ☑ is **not** on active duty in the military. *(Check "is" or "is not")*
If Respondent is on active duty in the armed forces of the United States, the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) may prevent you from getting a judgment without Respondent's consent. You should contact a lawyer about this situation prior to filing this *Petition*.

Information about Children

19. Has any court, in the State of Missouri or elsewhere, issued a judgment determining paternity of the child(ren), but not ordering child support or custody? This could be a divorce judgment listing the child(ren) born of the marriage, but not ordering custody or support. **An administrative child support order from the Family Support Division is not a court judgment.** *(Check one of the two boxes)*

☐ Yes ☑ No

If yes, enter the name of the case, the case number and the location of the court. (For example: John Doe v. Jane Doe, 12BA-DR3456, Boone County, Missouri.)

N/A

If yes, you must also attach a copy of the court judgment with this *Petition*.

20. An acknowledgment of paternity is an affidavit that the parents sign to put a father on a child's birth certificate. Did you and the other parent sign an acknowledgment of paternity for the child(ren) listed in this *Petition* at the hospital or at any other time? *(Check one of the two boxes)*

☑ Yes ☐ No

If yes, who listed himself as the father on the acknowledgment of paternity or birth certificate?

Elijah (First Name) Donovan (Middle Name) Edwards (Last Name) _____ (Jr./Sr./III)

If yes, you must attach a copy of the acknowledgment of paternity or birth certificate with this *Petition*. (Unable to attach. Certified on 11/9/2023)

21. List the name of the parent or guardian with whom the children have lived and the address where said children have lived during the past five years. Enter the dates at each address. If the child(ren) have lived at more than three addresses in the past five years, attach an additional page to this *Petition* listing the information requested in question 21 for each additional address.

(1) Elijah (First Name) Donovan (Middle Name) Edwards (Last Name) _____ (Jr./Sr./III)

949 Wynstay Circle (Street)

Valley Park (City) Missouri (State) 63088 (Zip) 7/21/2023 – 11/10/2023 (Dates)

(2) Medb (First Name) Celeste (Middle Name) Hoffman (Last Name) _____ (Jr./Sr./III)

949 Wynstay Circle (Street)

Valley Park (City) Missouri (State) 63088 (Zip) 7/21/2023 – 11/10/2023 (Dates)

(3) _____ _____ _____ _____
(First Name) (Middle Name) (Last Name) (Jr./Sr./III)

_____
(Street)

_____ _____ _____ _____
(City) (State) (Zip) (Dates)

22. Do you know of anyone other than you or the other parent who has physical custody of any of the children or claims to have custody or visitation rights with respect to any of the children? *(Check one of the two boxes)*
☐ Yes ☑ No

23. Do you have information about any other custody proceeding concerning any of the children pending in a court of this or any other state? *(Check one of the two boxes)*
☐ Yes ☑ No

24. Have you participated in other litigation concerning the custody of any of the children in this or any other state? *(Check one of the two boxes)*
☐ Yes ☑ No

25. Have any of the children been a victim of abuse or neglect? *(Check one of the two boxes)*
☑ Yes ☐ No

26. If you answered "Yes" to questions 22, 23, 24 or 25, please explain.
Child was left in the care of maternal great grandmother who refused to feed child, resulting child being under weight.

27. Has the Family Support Division opened a child support case for any child(ren) listed in this *Petition*? *(Check one of the two boxes)*
☐ Yes ☑ No

If yes, list the eight digit IV-D number(s). _____
If yes, has the Family Support Division issued a child support order? *(Check one of the two boxes)*
☐ Yes ☐ No
List the judicial case number(s). _____

28. Do any of the children listed in this *Petition* currently receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits through the Family Support Division, or have they received TANF benefits in the past? *(Check one of the two boxes)*
☐ Yes ☑ No

If yes, you must serve the Family Support Division with a copy of your *Petition for Child Custody and Support* and other forms filed with this *Petition*. Instructions on how to serve the Family Support Division are listed on page 7 of this *Petition*.

Not an Official Court Document

Request for Relief

I want the court to do the following: *(Check all that apply)*

☑ Child Custody should be as set forth in Part A of the attached *Parenting Plan* marked Exhibit _____. The custody arrangement that is in the best interests of the children is set forth in Part A of the attached *Parenting Plan* marked Exhibit _____.

☐ Child Support should be as set forth in Part B of the attached *Parenting Plan* marked Exhibit _____.

☑ Other (Please state the other request(s))

Determine parenting plan at later date

Not an Official Court Document

Directions for Service on Respondent

If you do not know the location of Respondent and you have no way of contacting them, you must attempt to serve them at their last known address or place of employment. Once you make an honest and reasonable effort to personally serve them and are still unable to get service, then you may file a *Request for Service by Publication* asking the court to publish notice of your petition in the local newspaper. The *Request for Service by Publication* is available on the Representing Yourself website at selfrepresent.mo.gov. **If you have service by publication, you are not entitled to obtain any kind of money judgment for such things as child support. This option should only be used as a last resort.**

Check one of the following service options:

☐ Respondent has signed a verified *Respondent's Answer to Petition for Child Custody and Support* which is being filed with the *Petition for Child Custody and Support*. Therefore, do not issue a summons.

If you check this box, you must file the *Respondent's Answer to Petition for Child Custody and Support* at the same time you file this *Petition*. The *Answer* must be signed by Respondent in front of a notary public.

☑ Respondent shall be served with a summons at their home:

Respondent must be served within 30 days of the issuance of the summons. **If you are going to have Respondent served, you must file another copy of all your documents in this case to be served on Respondent.**

949 Wynstay Circle
(Street)

Valley Park Missouri 63088
(City) *(State)* *(Zip)*

☑ Respondent shall be served with a Summons at their place of employment:

Respondent must be served within 30 days of the issuance of the summons. **If you are going to have Respondent served, you must file another copy of all your documents in this case to be served on Respondent.**

(Employer's Name) *(Hours of Employment)*

(Street)

(City) *(State)* *(Zip)*

☐ Respondent cannot be served in Missouri. Therefore, service by registered mail is requested. A copy of the *Affidavit for Service by Mail* is attached to this form. See Missouri Supreme Court Rule 54.12(b).

Service on Family Support Division (if necessary)

If any child listed in this *Petition* receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits, you must serve the Family Support Division with a copy of your *Petition* and *Parenting Plan*.

☐ The child(ren) receive TANF benefits through the Family Support Division. The Family Support Division shall be served at the following address:

Director, Family Support Division, 615 Howerton Court, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

If you request a summons to be served outside of the county where you filed this *Petition*, the court may require you to deliver the summons to the sheriff of the county where the summons will be served. You must also pay the appropriate service fee to that sheriff. For further instructions, please contact the circuit clerk in the county where your petition is filed.

Sign Below in the Presence of a Notary Public

Your *Petition for Child Custody and Support* is required to be verified in the presence of a notary public.

Petitioner, of lawful age, being duly sworn on his or her oath, states that he or she is the Petitioner named above and that the facts stated in the *Petition for Child Custody and Support* are true according to his or her best knowledge, information and belief.

▶ X _____ Elijah Edwards

(Sign above in the presence of a Notary Public) *(Print your name above)*

The following information must be completed by a notary public.

STATE OF MO)
) SS
COUNTY OF St. Louis)

On this 13th day of November, 2023, before me personally appeared _____, to me known to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged that he/she executed the same as his/her free act and deed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal in the County and State aforesaid, the day and year first above written.

CHARLI JAE CRAVEN
Notary Public, Notary Seal
State of Missouri
St. Louis County
Commission # 22905845
My Commission Expires 06-20-2026

C J Craven, Notary Public
St Louis County, State of Missouri

My commission expires: 6/20/2026

Attorney Information

This information may be completed by your attorney. Do not enter any information here if you are filing this case without the assistance of an attorney.

☐ I have assisted Petitioner in the preparation of these pleadings, but I am not entering my appearance on behalf of Petitioner.

_____ _____
(Attorney - Sign above) *(Missouri Bar Number)*

_____
(Attorney - Print your name above)

_____
(Street)

_____ _____ _____
(City) *(State)* *(Zip)*

( ) _____ ( ) _____ _____
(Telephone Number with Area Code) *(Fax Number with Area Code)* *(E-mail Address - Optional)*