

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA SUPREME COURT APPROVED FAMILY LAW  
FORM 12.980(n)  
PETITION FOR INJUNCTION FOR PROTECTION AGAINST DATING  
VIOLENCE (06/24)**

**Where can I look for more information?**

**Before proceeding, you should read General Information for Self-Represented Litigants found at the beginning of these forms.** The words that are in **bold underline** are defined in that section. The clerk of the circuit court or family law intake staff can help you complete any necessary domestic violence forms and can give you information about local domestic violence victim assistance programs, shelters, and other related services. You may also call the Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-500-1119. For further information, see Chapter 741, Florida Statutes, and Rule 12.610, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure.

**When should this form be used?**

If you are a victim of **dating violence**, and have reasonable cause to believe you are in **imminent danger** of becoming the victim of another act of dating violence, **or** if you have reasonable cause to believe that you are in **imminent danger** of becoming a victim of dating violence, you can use this form to ask the court for a protective order prohibiting dating violence. Dating violence means violence between individuals who have or have had a continuing and significant relationship of a romantic or intimate nature. **The dating relationship must have existed within the past six months, the nature of the relationship must have been characterized by the expectation of affection or sexual involvement between the parties, and the frequency and type of interaction must have included that the persons have been involved over time and on a continuous basis during the course of the relationship.** Dating violence does not include violence in a casual acquaintanceship or violence between individuals who only have engaged in ordinary fraternization in a business or social context. Dating violence includes assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, or false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death. Because you are making a request to the court, you are called the **petitioner**. The person whom you are asking the court to protect you from is called the **respondent**. If you are under the age of eighteen and have never been married or had the disabilities of nonage removed by a court, one of your parents or your legal guardian must sign this petition on your behalf.

**If you are filing on behalf of a child or children**

The parent or legal guardian of any minor child *who is living at home* may seek an injunction for protection against dating violence on behalf of the minor child. With respect to a minor child who is living at home, if the party against whom the protective injunction is sought is also a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian, you, as the parent or legal guardian filing the petition, must have been an eye-witness to, or have direct physical evidence or **affidavits** from eye-witnesses of, the specific facts and circumstances that form the basis of the petition. If the party against whom the protective injunction is sought is a person **OTHER THAN** a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian of the minor child, you, as the parent or legal guardian filing the petition, must state why you have reasonable cause to believe that the minor child is a victim of dating violence.

**Additional Information**

If the respondent is your **spouse**, former spouse, related to you by blood or marriage, living with you now or has lived with you in the past (if you are or were living as a family), or the other parent of your child(ren), whether or not you have ever been married or ever lived together, you should use **Petition for Injunction for Protection Against**

**Domestic Violence**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.980(a), rather than this form.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. You should complete this form (giving as much detail as possible) and sign it. You must file this form electronically pursuant to Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.525 OR bring the form to a clerk in the county where you live. You should keep a copy for your records. If you have any questions or need assistance completing this form, a court clerk or **family law intake staff** can help you.

### **What should I do if the judge grants my petition?**

If the facts contained in your petition convince the judge that an **immediate and present danger of dating violence** exists, the judge will sign a **Temporary Injunction for Protection Against Dating Violence**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.980(o). A temporary injunction is issued without notice to the respondent. The clerk will give your **petition**, the temporary injunction, and any other papers filed with your petition to the sheriff or other law enforcement officer for **personal service** on the respondent. The temporary injunction will take effect immediately after the respondent is served with a copy of it. It lasts until a full **hearing** can be held or for a period of 15 days, whichever comes first. The court may extend the temporary injunction beyond 15 days for a good reason, which may include failure to obtain **service** on the respondent.

The temporary injunction is issued **ex parte**. This means that the judge has considered only the information presented by one side—YOU. Section I of the temporary injunction gives a date that you should appear in court for a hearing. You will be expected to testify about the facts in your petition. The respondent will be given the opportunity to testify at this hearing, also. At the hearing, the judge will decide whether to issue a **Final Judgment of Injunction for Protection Against Dating Violence (After Notice)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.980(p), which will remain in effect for a specific time period or until modified or dissolved by the court. **If you and/or the respondent do not appear, the temporary injunction may be continued in force, extended, or dismissed, and/or additional orders may be granted, including entry of a permanent injunction and the imposition of court costs. You and respondent will be bound by the terms of any injunction or order issued at the final hearing.**

**IF EITHER YOU OR RESPONDENT DO NOT APPEAR AT THE FINAL HEARING, YOU WILL BOTH BE BOUND BY THE TERMS OF ANY INJUNCTION OR ORDER ISSUED IN THIS MATTER.**

If the judge signs a temporary or final injunction, the clerk will provide you with the necessary copies. **Make sure that you keep one certified copy of the injunction with you at all times!**

### **What can I do if the judge denies my petition?**

If your petition is denied on the grounds that it appears to the court that no immediate and present danger of dating violence exists, the court will set a full hearing on your petition. The respondent will be notified by **personal service** of your petition and the hearing. If your petition is denied, you may: amend your petition by filing a **Supplemental Affidavit in Support of Petition for Injunction for Protection**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.980(g); attend the hearing and present facts that support your petition; and/or dismiss your petition.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-FILING**

The Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration now require that all petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file petitions or other pleadings or documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your pleadings or other documents electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the judicial circuit in which you file. **The rules**

and procedures should be carefully read and followed.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-SERVICE

After the initial service of process of the petition or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in certain circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration** and you **must** review Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at [www.flcourts.org](http://www.flcourts.org) through the link to the Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

**SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MUST SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL UNLESS OTHERWISE EXCUSED.** If a self-represented litigant has been excused from serving documents by e-mail and then elects to serve and receive documents by e-mail, the procedures must always be followed once that election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915; and Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516.

### Special notes . . .

**Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a **nonlawyer**. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out this form, that person must give you a copy of a **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900(a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out this form also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

If you require that your address be confidential for safety reasons, you should complete a **Request for Confidential Filing of Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.980(h), and file it with the clerk of the circuit. You should then write "confidential" in the space provided on the petition.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,  
IN AND FOR LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Petitioner,

Case No.: 38-

and

Division: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Respondent.

**PETITION FOR INJUNCTION FOR PROTECTION AGAINST DATING  
VIOLENCE**

I, *{full legal name}* \_\_\_\_\_, declare under penalties of perjury,  
that the following statements are true:

**SECTION I. PETITIONER**

(This section is about you. It must be completed. However, if you fear that disclosing your address to the respondent would put you in danger, you should complete and file a Request for Confidential Filing of Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.980(h), and write "confidential" in the space provided on this form for your address and telephone number.)

1. Petitioner currently lives at the following address: *{address, city, state, zip code}* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth of Petitioner: \_\_\_\_\_.

*{Indicate if applicable}*

**Petitioner seeks an injunction for protection on behalf of a minor child.** Petitioner is the parent or legal guardian of *{full legal name}* \_\_\_\_\_, a minor child who is living at home.

2. Petitioner's attorney's name, address, and telephone number is: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(If you do not have an attorney, write "none.")

**SECTION II. RESPONDENT**

(This section is about the person you want to be protected from. It must be completed.)

1. Respondent currently lives at the following address: *{address, city, state, and zip code}* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Respondent's Driver's License number is: *{if known}* \_\_\_\_\_

2. Petitioner has known Respondent since: *{date}* \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Respondent's last known place of employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Employment address: \_\_\_\_\_

Working hours: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Physical description of Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Race: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: Male  Female  Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Eye Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Hair Color: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Distinguishing marks and/or scars: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vehicle: (make/model) \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Tag Number: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Other names Respondent goes by (aliases or nicknames): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Respondent's attorney's name, address, and telephone number is: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (If you do not know whether Respondent has an attorney, write "unknown." If Respondent does not have an attorney, write "none.")
7. If Respondent is a minor, the address of Respondent's parent or legal guardian is: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION III. CASE HISTORY AND REASON FOR SEEKING PETITION** (This section must be completed.)

1. Have the Petitioner and Respondent been involved in a dating relationship within the past six months?  
 Yes  No
2. Describe the nature of the relationship between the Petitioner and Respondent *{Include the length of time of the relationship, the romantic or intimate nature of the relationship, the frequency or type of interaction, and any other facts that characterize the relationship}*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please indicate here if you are attaching additional pages to continue these facts.
3. Has Petitioner ever received or tried to get an injunction for protection against domestic violence, dating violence, repeat violence, or sexual violence, or stalking against Respondent in this or any other court?  
 Yes  No If yes, what happened in that case? *{Include case number, if known}*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Has Respondent ever received or tried to get an injunction for protection against domestic violence, dating violence, repeat violence, or sexual violence, or stalking against Petitioner in this or any other court?  
 Yes  No If yes, what happened in that case? *{Include case number, if known}*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Describe **any other** court case that is either going on now or that happened in the past **between Petitioner and Respondent** {Include case number, if known}: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Respondent has directed an incident of violence, meaning assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, or false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death against Petitioner or a minor child living at home. The incident (including date and location) is described below.

On {date} \_\_\_\_\_, at {location} \_\_\_\_\_,

Respondent

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Please indicate here if you are attaching additional pages to continue these facts.

7. Other prior incidents (including dates and location) are described below:

On {date(s)} \_\_\_\_\_, at {location(s)} \_\_\_\_\_,

Respondent

Please indicate here if you are attaching additional pages to continue these facts.

8. **Imminent Danger**

{Please complete **either** paragraph a or b below}

a.  Petitioner is a victim of dating violence and has reasonable cause to believe he or she is in **imminent danger** of becoming a victim of another act of dating violence. {Explain what Respondent has done to make you a victim of dating violence and to make you fear that you are in **imminent danger** of becoming a victim of another act of dating violence.}

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**OR**

b.  Petitioner has reasonable cause to believe he or she is in **imminent danger** of becoming a victim of dating violence as demonstrated by the fact that Respondent has: {Explain what Respondent has done that makes you fear that you are in **imminent danger** of becoming a victim of dating violence.}

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9. **Additional Information**

*{Indicate all that apply}*

a.  Respondent owns, has, and/or is known to have guns or other weapons.

Describe weapon(s): \_\_\_\_\_

b.  This or prior acts of dating violence have been previously reported to: *{person or agency}* \_\_\_\_\_

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**SECTION IV. INJUNCTION**

(This section must be completed.)

1. Petitioner asks the Court to enter a **TEMPORARY INJUNCTION** for protection against dating violence that will be in place from now until the scheduled hearing in this matter.

2. Petitioner asks the Court to enter an injunction prohibiting Respondent from committing any acts of violence against Petitioner and:

a. prohibiting Respondent from going to or within 500 feet of any place Petitioner lives;

b. prohibiting Respondent from going to or within 500 feet of Petitioner's place(s) of employment or the school that Petitioner attends; the address of Petitioner's place(s) of employment and/or school is: \_\_\_\_\_

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c. prohibiting Respondent from contacting Petitioner by telephone, mail, by e-mail, in writing, through another person, or in any other manner;

d. ordering Respondent not to use or possess any guns or firearms;

*{Indicate all that apply}*

e.  prohibiting Respondent from going to or within 500 feet of the following place(s) Petitioner or Petitioner's immediate family must go to often: \_\_\_\_\_

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f.  prohibiting Respondent from knowingly and intentionally going to or within 100 feet of Petitioner's motor vehicle; and any other terms the Court deems necessary for the safety of Petitioner and Petitioner's immediate family.

**I UNDERSTAND THAT BY FILING THIS PETITION, I AM ASKING THE COURT TO HOLD A HEARING ON THIS PETITION, THAT BOTH THE RESPONDENT AND I WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE HEARING, AND THAT I MUST APPEAR AT THE HEARING. I UNDERSTAND THAT IF EITHER RESPONDENT OR I FAIL TO APPEAR AT THE FINAL HEARING, WE WILL BE BOUND BY THE TERMS OF ANY INJUNCTION OR ORDER ISSUED AT THAT HEARING.**

**UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY, I DECLARE THAT I HAVE READ THE FOREGOING DOCUMENT AND THAT THE FACTS STATED IN IT ARE TRUE. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE STATEMENTS MADE IN THIS PETITION ARE BEING MADE UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY, PUNISHABLE AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 92.525, FLORIDA STATUTES.**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Petitioner

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

{Do not write your address if you are filing or have filed a Request for Confidential Filing of Address, Form 12.980(h).}

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Designated E-Mail Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:**

[fill in **all** blanks] This form was prepared for the: {choose only **one**}  Petitioner  Respondent

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual} \_\_\_\_\_

{name of business or individual} \_\_\_\_\_

{address} \_\_\_\_\_

{city} \_\_\_\_\_ . {state} , \_\_\_\_\_ {telephone number} \_\_\_\_\_ .

{email address} \_\_\_\_\_ .



# INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA FAMILY LAW RULES OF PROCEDURE FORM 12.900(h), NOTICE OF RELATED CASES (02/24)

## When should this form be used?

Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.545(d) requires the **petitioner** in a family law case to file with the court a notice of related cases, if any. Your circuit may also require this form to be filed even if there are no related cases. A case is considered related if:

- it involves the same parties, children, or issues and is pending when the family law case is filed; or
- it affects the court's jurisdiction to proceed; or
- an order in the related case may conflict with an order on the same issues in the new case; or
- an order in the new case may conflict with an order in the earlier case.

This form is used to provide the required notice to the court.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. It must be **filed** with the **clerk of the circuit court** with the initial pleading in the family law case.

## What should I do next?

A copy of the form must be served on the presiding judge, either the chief judge or the family law administrative judge, and all parties in the related cases. You should also keep a copy for your records. **Service** must be in accordance with Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516.

## Where can I look for more information?

**Before proceeding, you should read "General Information for Self-Represented Litigants" found at the beginning of these forms.** The words that are in "**bold and underline**" in these instructions are defined there. For further information, see Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.545(d).

## Special notes . . .

Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of a **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900(a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms **must** also put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,  
IN AND FOR LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: 38-  
Division: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Petitioner,  
and  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Respondent.

### NOTICE OF RELATED CASES

1. Petitioner submits this Notice of Related Cases as required by Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.545(d). A related case may be an open or closed civil, criminal, guardianship, domestic violence, juvenile delinquency, juvenile dependency, or domestic relations case. A case is "related" to this family law case if it involves any of the same parties, children, or issues and it is pending at the time the party files a family case; if it affects the court's jurisdiction to proceed; if an order in the related case may conflict with an order on the same issues in the new case; or if an order in the new case may conflict with an order in the earlier litigation.

[check **one** only]

**There are no related cases.**

**The following are the related cases (add additional pages if necessary):**

#### Related Case No. 1

Case Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Petitioner \_\_\_\_\_

Respondent \_\_\_\_\_

Case No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Proceeding: [check **all** that apply]

Dissolution of Marriage

Paternity

Custody

Adoption

Child Support

Support for Dependent Adult Children

Modification/Enforcement/Contempt Proceedings

Juvenile Dependency

Juvenile Delinquency

Termination of Parental Rights

Criminal

Domestic/Sexual/Dating/Repeat

Mental Health

Violence or Stalking Injunctions

Other {specify} \_\_\_\_\_

State where case was decided or is pending:  Florida  Other: {specify} \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Court where case was decided or is pending (for example, Fifth Circuit Court, Marion County, Florida): \_\_\_\_\_

Title of last Court Order/Judgment (if any): \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Court Order/Judgment (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of cases check **all** that apply]:  
 pending case involves same parties, children, or issues;  
 may affect court's jurisdiction;  
 order in related case may conflict with an order in this case;  
 order in this case may conflict with previous order in related case.

Statement as to the relationship of the cases: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Related Case No. 2**

Case Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Petitioner \_\_\_\_\_  
Respondent \_\_\_\_\_  
Case No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Proceeding: [check **all** that apply]  
 Dissolution of Marriage  Paternity  
 Custody  Adoption  
 Child Support  Support for Dependent Adult Children  
 Modification/Enforcement/Contempt Proceedings  
 Juvenile Dependency  Juvenile Delinquency  
 Termination of Parental Rights  Criminal  
 Domestic/Sexual/Dating/Repeat  Mental Health  
 Violence or Stalking Injunctions  Other {specify} \_\_\_\_\_

State where case was decided or is pending:  Florida  Other: {specify} \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Court where case was decided or is pending (for example, Fifth Circuit Court, Marion County, Florida): \_\_\_\_\_  
Title of last Court Order/Judgment (if any): \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Court Order/Judgment (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of cases check all that apply]:  
 pending case involves same parties, children, or issues.  
 may affect court's jurisdiction;  
 order in related case may conflict with an order in this case;  
 order in this case may conflict with previous order in related case.

Statement as to the relationship of the cases: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Related Case No. 3**

Case Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Petitioner \_\_\_\_\_

Respondent \_\_\_\_\_

Case No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Proceeding: [check **all** that apply]

- Dissolution of Marriage
- Custody
- Child Support
- Modification/Enforcement/Contempt Proceedings
- Juvenile Dependency
- Termination of Parental Rights
- Domestic/Sexual/Dating/Repeat
- Violence or Stalking Injunctions
- Paternity
- Adoption
- Support for Dependent Adult Children
- Juvenile Delinquency
- Criminal
- Mental Health
- Other {specify} \_\_\_\_\_

State where case was decided or is pending: \_\_\_\_\_ Florida \_\_\_\_\_ Other: {specify} \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Court where case was decided or is pending (for example, Fifth Circuit Court, Marion County, Florida): \_\_\_\_\_

Title of last Court Order/Judgment (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Court Order/Judgment (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of cases check all that apply]:

- pending case involves same parties, children, or issues;
- may affect court's jurisdiction;
- order in related case may conflict with an order in this case;
- order in this case may conflict with previous order in related case.

Statement as to the relationship of the cases: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. [check **one** only]

- I **do not** request coordination of litigation in any of the cases listed above.
- I **do** request coordination of the following cases: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. [check **all** that apply]

- Assignment to one judge
- Coordination of existing cases will conserve judicial resources and promote an efficient determination of these case because: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. The Petitioner acknowledges a continuing duty to inform the court of any cases in this or any other state that could affect the current proceeding.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Petitioner's Signature  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I CERTIFY that I delivered a copy of this Notice of Related Cases to the \_\_\_\_\_ County Sheriff's Department or a certified process server for service on the Respondent, and [check all used]  e-mailed  mailed  hand delivered, a copy to {name} \_\_\_\_\_, who is the [check all that apply]  judge assigned to new case,  chief judge or family law administrative judge,  {name} \_\_\_\_\_ a party to the related case,  {name} \_\_\_\_\_, a party to the related case on {date} \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Petitioner/Attorney for Petitioner  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_  
Florida Bar Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:**

[fill in all blanks] This form was prepared for the {choose only one}:  Petitioner  Respondent.

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual} \_\_\_\_\_,  
{name of business} \_\_\_\_\_,  
{address} \_\_\_\_\_,  
{city} \_\_\_\_\_ {state} \_\_\_\_\_, {telephone number} \_\_\_\_\_.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA FAMILY LAW RULES OF PROCEDURE  
FORM 12.928  
COVER SHEET FOR FAMILY COURT CASES (02/24)**

**When should this form be used?**

The Cover Sheet for Family Court Cases and the information contained in it does not replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other documents as required by law. This form shall be filed by the petitioner/party opening or reopening a case for the use of the **clerk of the circuit court** for the purpose of reporting judicial workload data pursuant to Florida Statutes section 25.075.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. The petitioner must **file** this cover sheet with the first pleading or motion filed to open or reopen a case in all domestic and juvenile cases.

**What should I do next?**

Follow these instructions for completing the form:

- I. Case Style. Enter the name of the court, the appropriate case number assigned at the time of filing of the original petition, the name of the judge assigned (if applicable), and the name (last, first, middle initial) of the petitioner(s) and respondent(s).
  
- II. Type of Action /Proceeding. Place a check beside the proceeding you are initiating. If you are filing more than one type of proceeding, (such as a modification and an enforcement proceeding) against the same party at the same time, then you must complete a separate cover sheet for each action being filed.
  - (A) Initial Action/Petition
  - (B) Reopening Case. If you check "Reopening Case," indicate whether you are filing a modification or supplemental petition or an action for enforcement by placing a check beside the appropriate action/petition.
    1. Modification/Supplemental Petition
    2. Motion for Civil Contempt/ Enforcement
    3. Other – All reopening actions not involving modification/supplemental petitions or petition enforcement.
  
- III. Type of Case. Place a check beside the appropriate case. If the case fits more than one category, select the most definitive. Definitions of the categories are provided below.
  - (A) Simplified Dissolution of Marriage- petitions for the termination of marriage pursuant to Florida Family Law Rule of Procedure 12.105.
  - (B) Dissolution of Marriage - petitions for the termination of marriage pursuant to Chapter 61, Florida Statutes, other than simplified dissolution.

- (C) Domestic Violence - all matters relating to injunctions for protection against domestic violence pursuant to section 741.30, Florida Statutes.
- (D) Dating Violence - all matters relating to injunctions for protection against dating violence pursuant to section 784.046, Florida Statutes.
- (E) Repeat Violence - all matters relating to injunctions for protection against repeat violence pursuant to section 784.046, Florida Statutes.
- (F) Sexual Violence - all matters relating to injunctions for protection against sexual violence pursuant to section 784.046, Florida Statutes.
- (G) Stalking-all matters relating to injunctions for protection against stalking pursuant to section 784.0485, Florida Statutes
- (H) Support - IV-D - all matters relating to child or spousal support in which an application for assistance has been filed with the Department of Revenue, Child Support Enforcement under Title IV-D, Social Security Act, except for such matters relating to dissolution of marriage petitions (sections 409.2564, 409.2571, and 409.2597, Florida Statutes), paternity, or UIFSA.
- (I) Support-Non IV-D - all matters relating to child or spousal support in which an application for assistance has **not** been filed under Title IV-D, Social Security Act.
- (J) UIFSA- IV-D - all matters relating to Chapter 88, Florida Statutes, in which an application for assistance has been filed under Title IV-D, Social Security Act.
- (K) UIFSA - Non IV-D - all matters relating to Chapter 88, Florida Statutes, in which an application for assistance has **not** been filed under Title IV-D, Social Security Act.
- (L) Support for Dependent Adult Children – all matters related to support of a dependent adult child.
- (M) Other Family Court - all matters involving time-sharing and/or parenting plans relating to minor child(ren), support unconnected with dissolution of marriage, annulment, delayed birth certificates pursuant to Florida Statutes section 382.0195, expedited affirmation of parental status pursuant to Florida Statutes section 742.16, termination of parental rights proceedings pursuant to Florida Statutes section 63.087, declaratory judgment actions related to premarital, marital, post-marital agreements, or other matters not included in the categories above.
- (N) Adoption Arising Out Of Chapter 63 - all matters relating to adoption pursuant to Chapter 63, Florida Statutes, excluding any matters arising out of Chapter 39, Florida Statutes.
- (O) Name Change - all matters relating to name change, pursuant to section 68.07, Florida Statutes.
- (P) Paternity/Disestablishment of Paternity – all matters relating to paternity pursuant to Chapter 742, Florida Statutes.
- (Q) Juvenile Delinquency - all matters relating to juvenile delinquency pursuant to Chapter 985, Florida Statutes.
- (R) Petition for Dependency - all matters relating to petitions for dependency.
- (S) Shelter Petition – all matters relating to shelter petitions pursuant to Chapter 39, Florida Statutes.
- (T) Termination of Parental Rights Arising Out Of Chapter 39 – all matters relating to

- (U) termination of parental rights pursuant to Chapter 39, Florida Statutes.
- (V) Adoption Arising Out Of Chapter 39 – all matters relating to adoption pursuant to Chapter 39, Florida Statutes.
- (W) CINS/FINS – all matters relating to children in need of services (and families in need of services) pursuant to Chapter 984, Florida Statutes.
- (X) Petition for Temporary or Concurrent Custody by Extended Family-all matters relating to petitions for temporary or concurrent custody pursuant to Chapter 751.
- (Y) Emancipation of a Minor-all matters relating to emancipation of a minor pursuant to Chapter 743.

**ATTORNEY OR PARTY SIGNATURE.** Sign the Cover Sheet for Family Court Cases. Print legibly the name of the person signing the Cover Sheet for Family Court Cases. Attorneys must include a Florida Bar number. Insert the date the Cover Sheet for Family Court Cases is signed. Signature is a certification that filer has provided accurate information on the Cover Sheet for Family Court Cases.

**Nonlawyer** Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900(a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

A copy of this form must be filed with the court and served on the other party or his or her attorney. The copy you are serving to the other party must be either mailed, e-mailed, or hand-delivered to the opposing party or his or her attorney on the same day indicated on the certificate of service. If it is mailed, it must be postmarked on the date indicated in the certificate of service.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-FILING**

The Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration now require that all petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file petitions or other pleadings or documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your pleadings or other documents electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the judicial circuit in which you file. The rules and procedures should be carefully read and followed.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-SERVICE ELECTION**

After the initial service of process of the petition or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in certain circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration.** If you elect to participate in electronic service, which means serving or receiving pleadings by electronic mail (e-mail), or through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, you must



review Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at [www.flcourts.org](http://www.flcourts.org) through the link to the Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

**SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MAY SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO.** If a self-represented litigant elects to serve and receive documents by email, the procedures must always be followed once the initial election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General), Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915;** and Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.516.

### **Where can I look for more information?**

**Before proceeding, you should read “General Information for Self-Represented Litigants” found at the beginning of these forms.** For further information, see Rule 12.100, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure.

## COVER SHEET FOR FAMILY COURT CASES

I. Case Style

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,  
IN AND FOR LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: 38-

Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Petitioner,

and

\_\_\_\_\_  
Respondent.

II. Type of Action/Proceeding. Place a check beside the proceeding you are initiating. If you are filing more than one type of proceeding (such as a modification and an enforcement proceeding) against the same party at the same time, then you must complete a separate cover sheet for each action being filed. **If you are reopening a case, choose one of the three options below it.**

- (A)  Initial Action/Petition
- (B)  Reopening Case
  - 1.  Modification/Supplemental Petition
  - 2.  Motion for Civil Contempt/Enforcement
  - 3.  Other

III. Type of Case. If the case fits more than one type of case, select the most definitive.

- (A)  Simplified Dissolution of Marriage
- (B)  Dissolution of Marriage
- (C)  Domestic Violence
- (D)  Dating Violence
- (E)  Repeat Violence
- (F)  Sexual Violence
- (G)  Stalking
- (H)  Support IV-D (Department of Revenue, Child Support Enforcement)
- (I)  Support Non-IV-D (**not** Department of Revenue, Child Support Enforcement)
- (J)  UIFSA IV-D (Department of Revenue, Child Support Enforcement)
- (K)  UIFSA Non-IV-D (**not** Department of Revenue, Child Support Enforcement)
- (L)  Support for Dependent Adult Children – all matters related to support of a dependent adult child.
- (M)  Other Family Court
- (N)  Adoption Arising Out Of Chapter 63

- (O) \_\_\_ Name Change
- (P) \_\_\_ Paternity/Disestablishment of Paternity
- (Q) \_\_\_ Juvenile Delinquency
- (R) \_\_\_ Petition for Dependency
- (S) \_\_\_ Shelter Petition
- (T) \_\_\_ Termination of Parental Rights Arising Out Of Chapter 39
- (U) \_\_\_ Adoption Arising Out Of Chapter 39
- (V) \_\_\_ CINS/FINS
- (W) \_\_\_ Petition for Temporary or Concurrent Custody by Extended Family
- (X) \_\_\_ Emancipation of a Minor

**IV.** Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.545(d) requires that a Notice of Related Cases Form, Family Law Form 12.900(h), be filed with the initial pleading/petition by the filing attorney or self-represented litigant in order to notify the court of related cases. Is Form 12.900(h) being filed with this Cover Sheet for Family Court Cases and initial pleading/petition?

- \_\_\_ No, to the best of my knowledge, no related cases exist.
- \_\_\_ Yes, all related cases are listed on Family Law Form 12.900(h).

**ATTORNEY OR PARTY SIGNATURE**

I CERTIFY that the information I have provided in this cover sheet is accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ FL Bar No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attorney or party (Bar number, if attorney)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Type or print name) (E-mail Address(es))

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

**IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:** [fill in all blanks]

This form was prepared for the: *{choose only one}* \_\_\_ Petitioner \_\_\_ Respondent

This form was completed with the assistance of:

*{name of individual}* \_\_\_\_\_

*{name of business}* \_\_\_\_\_

*{address}* \_\_\_\_\_

*{city}* \_\_\_\_\_, *{state}* \_\_\_\_\_, *{zip code}* \_\_\_\_\_, *{telephone number}* \_\_\_\_\_.

