

**PETITION FOR PARENTAGE, CUSTODY, OR VISITATION  
FOR PERSONS WITHOUT AN ATTORNEY**

**THIS PETITION IS TO:**

**ESTABLISH PATERNITY  
CHANGE CUSTODY (NON-EMERGENCY)  
SET OR MODIFY VISITATION**

**CHANGES TO CUSTODY OR VISITATION MAY RESULT IN A CHANGE IN  
CHILD SUPPORT.**

**STEPS:**

- 1. Complete the Petition**
- 2. Complete a Summons for each Respondent/Parent**
- 3. Pay the \$112 filing fee plus \$42 service fee for each respondent/parent**
- 4. If the parent's whereabouts are unknown, you must complete an Affidavit of Diligent Efforts.**
- 5. Attend the court date you have been given.**

***YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONSULT A COMPETENT ATTORNEY.***

***THIS OFFICE CANNOT AND WILL NOT PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE.***

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CHEATHAM COUNTY, TENNESSEE

DOCKET NO \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
PETITIONER

Petitioner Relationship to the Child \_\_\_\_\_

VS

\_\_\_\_\_  
RESPONDENT

Respondent Relationship to the Child \_\_\_\_\_

REGARDING CHILDREN UNDER EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE.

IN RE: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD/REN'S NAME/S

**PRO SE PETITION UNDER TITLE 36**

The Petitioner asks this honorable Court to: (check all that apply)

- establish parentage       change custody       set or modify visitation

In support of this petition, the Petitioner would show the following to the court: (check and complete all that apply)

**To establish parentage:**

\_\_\_ The  Mother/Guardian  Alleged Father/s  Child/ren live in Cheatham County, TN.

\_\_\_ The Mother and Alleged Father/s were never married.

\_\_\_ The Mother and Alleged Father/s had sexual intercourse during the period of conception of the following child/ren and the child/ren were conceived as a result of that intercourse.

\_\_\_\_\_ born on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ born on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ born on \_\_\_\_\_

**To change custody:**

\_\_\_ Pursuant to a hearing on \_\_\_\_\_, custody was granted to Respondent.  
\_\_\_ There is not presently any order granting custody of the child/ren to either party, but the Petitioner has physical possession of the child/ren.  
\_\_\_ The Petitioner  has  has not participated (as a party, witness, or any other capacity) in any other litigation concerning custody of the child/ren in this or any other state.  
\_\_\_ The Petitioner  does  does not know of any person not a party to this proceeding who has physical custody of the child/ren or who claims to have custody of or visitation rights with the child/ren.

\_\_\_ There has been a substantial and material change of circumstances that warrants a change of custody in this matter as follows:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**To set visitation:**

\_\_\_ There has not been a previous order of visitation established in this matter.  
\_\_\_ The Petitioner is the non-custodial parent of the child/ren and is requesting that visitation be set.  
\_\_\_ The Petitioner is the guardian or custodial parent of the child/ren and is requesting that visitation be set.

**To modify visitation:**

\_\_\_ A previous order of visitation was established by this Court on \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_ The existing visitation order allowed visitation as follows: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ The existing visitation order needs to be modified because: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Therefore, the Petitioner requests: (check and complete all that apply)**

**To establish parentage:**

\_\_\_ Proper process issue and the Respondent be required to answer in the time allowed.

- \_\_\_\_\_ An order of parentage be entered in this matter which will include:
- a. A determination of the availability of health insurance to cover the child/ren and other appropriate orders regarding allocation of health care costs;
  - b. A determination of the child/ren's name/s on the birth certificate/s;
  - c. A determination of the custody of the child/ren;
  - d. A determination of visitation or parental access;
  - e. A determination of child support;
  - f. A determination of retroactive support; and
  - g. A determination of liability for the mother's reasonable expense for her pregnancy, confinement, and recovery to either or both parties.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Other specific requests: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ The costs of this be assessed to the Respondent;
- For other appropriate relief.

**To change custody:**

- Proper process issue and that this matter be set for an initial appearance before the Court;
- Custody of the child/ren be changed from the Respondent to the Petitioner;
  - The Respondent be ordered to pay child support pursuant to the TN Child Support Guidelines;
- The Respondent be granted visitation;
  - The costs of this be assessed to the Respondent;
- For other appropriate relief.

**To set or modify visitation:**

- Proper process issue and the Respondent be ordered to appear and show cause why visitation should not be set or modified as requested;
- The Court set or modify visitation as requested;
- The costs of this be assessed to the Respondent;
- For other appropriate relief.

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Petitioner

Sworn to and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary / Deputy Clerk

My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

OATH

STATE OF TENNESSEE     )  
COUNTY OF CHEATHAM    )

I \_\_\_\_\_, being duly sworn according to the law, make oath that the facts stated in the foregoing Petition are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

\_\_\_\_\_

Sworn to and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_\_  
day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public/ Deputy Clerk

My commission expires:

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CHEATHAM COUNTY, TENNESSEE

DOCKET NO \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
PETITIONER

VS

\_\_\_\_\_  
RESPONDENT

IN RE: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD/REN'S NAME/S

**AFFIDAVIT OF DILIGENT EFFORTS TO LOCATE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN**

1. The whereabouts of the following are unknown to me:

Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Father: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Custodian: \_\_\_\_\_ 2. I do not know how to locate the named person/people to notify them of this proceeding.

3. The last time I had contact with them was: \_\_\_\_\_

4. The last address I am aware of these people living or staying at is: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 5.

I made the following efforts to attempt to contact the named people about this proceeding:

I contacted the following friends, family, or acquaintances of the above people about these proceedings: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  I

reached out to the named people through social media.

I called the last known phone number I have for the named people.

6. I have provided the court with all information in my possession that would help the court locate the named people.

7. I understand that I am under a court order to provide the court with any additional information that comes to my attention about how to contact the named people.
8. I understand that if I come in contact with the named people, I am ordered to tell them about these proceedings, about any orders that have been issued by the court, and any court dates that I am aware and to advise them to contact Juvenile Court.

Affiant: \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn to and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary / Deputy Clerk

My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

CHEATHAM COUNTY JUVENILE COURT  
GENERAL DATA FORM----CHILD'S PERSONAL RECORD  
(Please Print Legibly and Answer all questions completely)

DOCKET #: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIAL SECURITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
CURRENT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
IN SCHOOL? \_\_\_\_\_ NAME OF SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST GRADE COMPLETED: \_\_\_\_\_ IN SPECIAL ED: \_\_\_\_\_  
DO YOU WORK? \_\_\_\_\_ EMPLOYER NAME & ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

LIVING ARRANGEMENT OF CHILD:

_____ WITH BOTH BIOLOGICAL PARENTS	_____ WITH REALTIVES	_____ IN AN INSTITUTION
_____ WITH FATHER & STEPMOTHER	_____ WITH ADOPTIVE PARENTS	_____ IN A GROUP HOME
_____ WITH MOTHER & STEPFATHER	_____ INDEPENDENT LIVING	_____ WITH FOSTER FAMILY
_____ WITH MOTHER	_____ UNKNOWN	_____ IN RESIDENTIAL CENTER
_____ WITH FATHER		_____ OTHER

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ SEX: \_\_\_\_\_ RACE: \_\_\_\_\_ MARTIAL STATUS \_\_\_\_\_  
IS THE CHILD OF HISPANIC ORGIN: \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER ETHNIC ORGIN (PLEASE SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_  
PLACE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ NICKNAME/ ALIAS: \_\_\_\_\_  
DOES CHILD HAVE PREVIOUS ADJUDICATIONS FOR OR CONCERNINGS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ DELINQUENT OFFENSES  
\_\_\_\_\_ DRUG/ ALCOHOL OFFENSES  
\_\_\_\_\_ STATUS/ UNRULY OFFENSES  
\_\_\_\_\_ DEPENDENCY & NEGLECT

IF YES, WHEN AND WHAT COURT: \_\_\_\_\_

---

FAMILY HISTORY

MOTHER: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
MARRIED: \_\_\_\_\_ RACE: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL SECURITY#: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/ STATE/ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_  
WORK ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

FATHER: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
MARRIED: \_\_\_\_\_ RACE: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL SECURITY#: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/ STATE/ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_  
WORK ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

LEGAL GUARDIAN: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
MARRIED: \_\_\_\_\_ RACE: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL SECURITY#: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/ STATE/ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_  
WORK ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

STEP PARENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
MARRIED: \_\_\_\_\_ RACE: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL SECURITY#: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/ STATE/ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_  
WORK ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_



STATE OF TENNESSEE CHEATHAM COUNTY JUVENILE COURT	SUMMONS	CASE FILE NUMBER:
---	---------	-------------------

PETITIONER(S):	RESPONDENT(S):
----------------	----------------

TO: (NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESPONDENT)

TO BE SERVED VIA \_\_\_\_\_

List each Respondent on a separate summons.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO DEFEND A JUVENILE ACTION FILED AGAINST YOU IN THE JUVENILE COURT, CHEATHAM COUNTY, TENNESSEE. YOUR DEFENSE MUST BE MADE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE THIS SUMMONS IS SERVED UPON YOU. YOU ARE DIRECTED TO FILE YOUR DEFENSE WITH THE CLERK OF THE COURT AND SEND A COPY TO THE PETITIONER AT THE ADDRESS LISTED BELOW. IF YOU FAIL TO DEFEND THIS ACTION BY THE ABOVE DATE, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT CAN BE RENDERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF SOUGHT IN THE PETITION.

PETITIONER: (Name, address and telephone number)	FILED, ISSUED & ATTESTED  _____ <b>HOLLY WALLER, JUVENILE COURT CLERK</b> 100 Public Square, Suite 115, Ashland City, TN-Phone: 615/792-7566  By: _____ Deputy Clerk
---	---

TO THE SHERIFF: Please execute this summons and make your return within ninety (90) days of issuance as provided by law.	DATE RECEIVED  _____ SHERIFF
---	---------------------------------------

**RETURN ON PERSONAL SERVICE OF SUMMONS**

I hereby certify and return that I served this Summons together with the Petition to the Respondent.

SHERIFF/PRIVATE PROCESSOR/NOTARY PUBLIC By: _____ Sheriff/Private Processor/Notary Public	DATE OF PERSONAL SERVICE:
---	---------------------------

**NOTICE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY EXEMPTION NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT(S):**

Tennessee law provides a ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) debtor's equity interest personal property exemption from execution or seizure to satisfy a judgment. If a judgment should be entered against you in this action and you wish to claim property as exempt, you must file a written list, under oath, of the items you wish to claim as exempt with the clerk of the court. Certain items are automatically exempt by law and do not need to be listed; these include items of necessary wearing apparel (clothing) for yourself and your family and trunks or other receptacles necessary to contain such apparel, family portraits, the family Bible, and school books. Should any of these items be seized you would have the right to recover them. If you do not understand your exemption right or how to exercise it, you may wish to seek the counsel of a lawyer. Mail list to: Cheatham County Juvenile Court, 100 Public Square, Suite 115, Ashland City, Tennessee 37015 (Phone: 615/792-7566)