

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA SUPREME COURT APPROVED FAMILY LAW FORM 12.904(a),
PETITION FOR SUPPORT UNCONNECTED WITH DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE WITH
DEPENDENT OR MINOR CHILD(REN)

When should this form be used?

This form may be used to ask the court to enter a support **order** if you and your **spouse** are separated, and your spouse has the ability to contribute to you and your minor child(ren), but has failed to do so. You can **only** use this form if a **dissolution of marriage** has not been filed **and** the child(ren) live primarily with you. If a petition for dissolution of marriage has been filed, you should file a **Motion for Temporary Support with Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.947(a), instead of using this **petition**. Also, if you are requesting that an order be entered for you to pay support to your spouse, you should not file this form.

This petition cannot address the issues of property, debts, custody, or visitation. It only deals with **alimony** and **child support**.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. After completing this form, you should sign the form before a **notary public** or **deputy clerk**. You should **file** the original with the **clerk of the circuit court** in the county where you live and keep a copy for your records.

What should I do next?

For your case to proceed, you must properly notify the other party in your case of the petition. If you know where he or she lives, you should use **personal service**. If you absolutely do not know where he or she lives, you may use **constructive service**. You may also be able to use constructive service if the other party resides in another state or country. However, if constructive service is used, other than granting a divorce, the court may only grant limited relief. For more information on constructive service, see **Notice of Action for Dissolution of Marriage**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.913(a), and **Affidavit of Diligent Search and Inquiry**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.913(b). If you need to use constructive service, use the **Notice of Action for Dissolution of Marriage**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.913(a), after striking through “for Dissolution of Marriage” and inserting “for Support Unconnected with Dissolution of Marriage with Dependent or Minor Child(ren).” If the other party is in the military service of the United States, additional steps for service may be required. See, for example, **Memorandum for Certificate of Military Service**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.912(a). In sum, the law regarding constructive service and service on an individual in the military service is very complex and you may wish to consult an attorney regarding these issues.

If personal service is used, the other party has 20 days to **answer** after being served with your petition. Your case will then generally proceed in one of the following three ways:

DEFAULT... If after 20 days, no answer has been filed, you may file a **Motion for Default**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.922(a), with the clerk of court. Then, if you have filed all of the required papers, you may call the clerk, **family law intake staff**, or **judicial assistant** to set a **final hearing**. You must notify the other party of the hearing by using a **Notice of Hearing (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.923, or other appropriate notice of hearing form.

UNCONTESTED... If the **respondent** files an answer that agrees with everything in your petition or an answer and waiver, **and** you have complied with **mandatory disclosure** and filed all of the required papers, you may call the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant to set a final hearing. You

must notify the other party of the hearing by using a **Notice of Hearing (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.923, or other appropriate notice of hearing form.

CONTESTED... If the respondent files an answer or an answer and **counterpetition**, which disagrees with or denies anything in your petition, **and** you are unable to settle the disputed issues, you should file a **Notice for Trial**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.924, after you have complied with mandatory disclosure and filed all of the required papers. Some circuits may require the completion of **mediation** before a final hearing may be set. Then you should contact the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant for instructions on how to set your case for **trial** (final hearing). If the respondent files an answer and counterpetition, you should answer the counterpetition within 20 days using an **Answer to Counterpetition**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.903(d).

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**” in these instructions are defined there. For further information, see section 61.09, Florida Statutes.

Special notes...

If you do not have the money to pay the filing fee, you may obtain an Application for Determination of Civil Indigent Status from the clerk, fill it out, and the clerk will determine whether you are eligible to have filing fees deferred.

With this form you must also file the following:

- **Notice of Social Security Number**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(j).
- **Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) Affidavit**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(d), if the case involves child(ren).
- **Family Law Financial Affidavit**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(b) or (c). (This must be filed within 45 days of service of the petition on the respondent, if not filed at the time of the petition.)
- **Certificate of Compliance with Mandatory Disclosure**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.932. (This must be filed within 45 days of **service** of the petition on the respondent, if not filed at the time of the petition, unless you and the other party have agreed not to exchange these documents.)
- **Child Support Guidelines Worksheet**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(e), if you are asking that child support be ordered in the final judgment. (If you do not know the other party’s income, you may file this worksheet after his or her financial affidavit has been served on you.)

Child Support... The court may order one parent to pay child support to assist the other parent in meeting the child(ren)’s material needs. **Both parents are required to provide financial support**, but one parent may be ordered to pay a portion of his or her support for the child(ren) to the other parent. Florida has adopted guidelines for determining the amount of child support to be paid. These guidelines are based on the combined income of **both** parents and take into account the financial contributions of both parents. You must file a **Family Law Financial Affidavit**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(b) or (c), and your spouse will be required to do the same. From your financial affidavits, you should be able to calculate the amount of child support that should be paid using the **Child Support Guidelines Worksheet**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(e). Because the child

support guidelines take several factors into consideration, change over time, and vary from state to state, your child support obligation may be more or less than that of other people in seemingly similar situations.

Temporary Relief... If you need temporary relief regarding child support or temporary alimony, you may file a **Motion for Temporary Support with Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.947(a). For more information, see the instructions for that form.

Final Judgment Form... These family law forms contain a **Final Judgment of Support Unconnected with Dissolution of Marriage with Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.994(a), which the judge may use if your case is contested. You should check with the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant to see if you need to bring a final judgment with you to the hearing. If so, you should type or print the heading, including the circuit, county, case number, division, and the parties' names, and leave the rest blank for the judge to complete at your hearing or trial.

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 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 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.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____

Division: _____

Petitioner,

and

Respondent.

**PETITION FOR SUPPORT UNCONNECTED WITH DISSOLUTION
OF MARRIAGE WITH DEPENDENT OR MINOR CHILD(REN)**

I, *{full legal name}* _____, the
[**one** only] () Husband () Wife, being sworn, certify that the following statements are true:

1. JURISDICTION

() Husband () Wife () Both live in Florida at the filing of this Petition for Support Unconnected with Dissolution of Marriage, which is filed pursuant to section 61.09, Florida Statutes.

2. Petitioner [**one** only] () is () is not a member of the military service.
Respondent [**one** only] () is () is not a member of the military service.

3. MARRIAGE HISTORY

Date of marriage: *{month, day, year}* _____

Place of marriage: *{city, state, country}* _____

Date of separation: *{month, day, year}* _____ (if approximate)

4. MINOR CHILD(REN)

[**all** that apply]

_____ a. The wife is pregnant. The baby is due on: *{date}* _____.

_____ b. The minor (under 18) child(ren) common to both parties are:

Name	Place of Birth	Birth date	Sex
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

c. The minor child(ren) born or conceived during the marriage who are **not** common to both parties are:

Name	Place of Birth	Birth date	Sex
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

The birth father(s) of the above minor child(ren) is (are) *{name and address}* _____

____ d. The child(ren) common to both parties who are 18 or older but who are dependent upon the parties due to a mental or physical incapacity are:

Name	Place of Birth	Birth date	Sex
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

5. A completed Notice of Social Security Number, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(j), is filed with this petition.
6. A completed Family Law Financial Affidavit, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(b) or (c), is, or will be, filed.
7. A completed Child Support Guidelines Worksheet, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(e), is, or will be, filed.
8. This case involves custody or visitation with a minor child(ren), and a completed Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) Affidavit, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(d), is filed with this answer.

SECTION I. SPOUSAL SUPPORT (ALIMONY)

[one only]

- ____ 1. Petitioner does not request spousal support (alimony) from Respondent at this time.
- ____ 2. Respondent has the ability to contribute to the maintenance of Petitioner and has failed to do so. Petitioner requests that the Court order Respondent to pay the following spousal support (alimony) and claims that he or she has a need for the support that he or she is requesting. Spousal support (alimony) is requested in the amount of \$_____ every () week () other week () month, beginning *{date}* _____, and continuing until *{date or event}* _____

Explain why the Court should order Respondent to pay and any specific request(s) for type of alimony (temporary, permanent, rehabilitative, and/or lump sum): _____

[if applies] () Petitioner requests life insurance on Respondent's life, provided by Respondent, to secure such support.

SECTION II. CHILD SUPPORT

Respondent has the ability to contribute to the maintenance of his or her minor child(ren) and has failed to do so. Petitioner has custody of the minor child(ren) or the child(ren) has (have) primary residence with Petitioner.

[all that apply]

- ____ 1. Petitioner requests that the Court award child support as determined by Florida's child support guidelines, section 61.30, Florida Statutes.
- ____ 2. Petitioner requests that the Court award child support to be paid beyond the age of 18 years because:

_____ a. the following child(ren), *{name(s)}* _____,
is (are) dependent because of a mental or physical incapacity which began prior to the
age of 18 *{explain}*: _____

_____ b. the following child(ren), *{name(s)}* _____,
is (are) dependent in fact and is (are) in high school while he/she (they) are between the
ages of 18 and 19; said child(ren) is (are) performing in good faith with reasonable
expectation of graduation before the age of 19.

_____ 3. Petitioner requests that medical/dental insurance coverage for the minor child(ren) be provided
by: [**one** only]

- _____ a. Father.
_____ b. Mother.

_____ 4. Petitioner requests that uninsured medical/dental expenses for the child(ren) be paid:
[**one** only]

- _____ a. by Father.
_____ b. by Mother.
_____ c. by Father and Mother each paying one-half.
_____ d. according to the percentages in the Child Support Guidelines Worksheet, Florida
Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(e).
_____ e. Other *{explain}*: _____

_____ 5. Petitioner requests that life insurance to secure child support be provided by:

- _____ a. Father.
_____ b. Mother.
_____ c. Both.

SECTION III. OTHER RELIEF

SECTION IV. PETITIONER'S REQUEST (This section summarizes what you are asking the Court to include in the order for support.)

Petitioner requests that the Court enter an order establishing support **and**:

[**all** that apply]

- _____ a. awarding spousal support (alimony) as requested in Section I of this petition;
_____ b. establishing child support for the minor child(ren) common to both parties, as requested in
Section II of this petition;
_____ c. awarding other relief as requested in Section III of this petition; and any other terms the Court
deems necessary.

I understand that I am swearing or affirming under oath to the truthfulness of the claims made in this petition and that the punishment for knowingly making a false statement includes fines and/or imprisonment.

Dated: _____

Signature of Petitioner
Printed Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Fax Number: _____

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to or affirmed and signed before me on _____ by _____.

NOTARY PUBLIC or DEPUTY CLERK

[Print, type, or stamp commissioned name of notary or deputy clerk.]

____ Personally known
____ Produced identification
____ Type of identification produced _____

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

I, *{full legal name and trade name of nonlawyer}* _____,
a nonlawyer, located at *{street}* _____, *{city}* _____,
{state} _____, *{phone}* _____, helped *{name}* _____,
who is the petitioner, fill out this form.