

ANSWER TO PATERNITY FORMS

Do not file this page with the court.

ANSWER TO PATERNITY FORMS

(These forms shall be used by a person responding to either *Mother's Petition for Declaration of Paternity, Custody and Support* or *Father's Petition for Declaration of Paternity Custody and Support*.)

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.

You are a Respondent. The person who filed the petition is the Petitioner. There may be other Respondents listed in question 6 of the *Petition for Declaration of Paternity, Custody and Support*.

Upon Completion of the Forms

1. You must file the following **original, signed forms with the court**:
 - *Answer to Petition for Declaration of Paternity, Custody and Support*
 - *Parenting Plan, Parts A and B* (if you do not agree with Petitioner's *Parenting Plan*)
 - *Statement of Income and Expenses (For use in Paternity Action)*
 - *Statement of Property and Debt (For use in Paternity Action)*
 - *Certificate of Completion of Litigant Awareness Program*

You must also provide a copy of these forms to all the other parties to the case (i.e. Petitioner and each Respondent listed in question 6 of the *Petition for Declaration of Paternity, Custody and Support*). If the party has hired an attorney for this case, you must only send a copy of these forms to their attorney.

2. You should also keep a copy of these forms for your records.
3. You should check with your local court to see if additional forms are required.

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- 1. Answer to Petition for Declaration of Paternity, Custody and Support (Form CAFC315-R)**
This is the first form you should complete. You will complete this form in response to *Mother's Petition for Declaration of Paternity, Custody and Support* or *Father's Petition for Declaration of Paternity, Custody and Support*. By signing this form, you agree to allow the court to decide your case. You may use this form to agree or disagree with statements in Petitioner's *Petition*.
- 2. Parenting Plan (Form CAFC501)**
There are two parts to this form, Part A and Part B. Part A deals with custody issues of the children, and Part B deals with support issues of the children.

If you have different custody or support arrangements for some of the children, you must complete a separate *Parenting Plan* for each set of children.

If the parents agree on the *Parenting Plan*, you may both sign and file one plan. This *Parenting Plan* can then be introduced into evidence at your hearing for the court to approve.
- 3. Statement of Income and Expenses (For use in Paternity Action) (Form CAFC252)**
This form requires you to list income and expenses for both you and the other parent.
- 4. Statement of Property and Debt (For use in Paternity Action) (Form CAFC242)**
This form requires you to list your property and debt.