

PETITION FOR CIVIL CONTEMPT FOR CUSTODY & ORDER

*A copy of your current Custody Order MUST be attached to your Petition.
(A Current custody order is one that has been signed by a Judge.)*

When you complete the forms the parties' names must appear the same way they were on the original custody order. **REMEMBER**, if you were the plaintiff on the original custody order you are **ALWAYS** the plaintiff, if you were the Defendant you are **ALWAYS** the defendant.

If you are filing for Contempt, you **MUST GIVE 3 BUSINESS DAYS NOTICE** in writing **BEFORE** you present this packet to the Judge - that means you send them or give them the "Notice of Intention to Present" **ALONG WITH COPIES** of all the documents that you will present to the Judge.

Be sure to read **ALL NOTICE, FILING AND SERVICE RULES** on page 3. These rules must be strictly followed and your case depends on you following these rules.

Take completed forms to Motions Court, Courtroom #2, Second Floor of the Courthouse, no later than 8:45 a.m. Monday through Thursday. Do **NOT** be late. Late motions will not be heard. Go into the Courtroom, have a seat and wait your turn.

YOU MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD TO FILE ON YOUR OWN
If you are not 18 years old you must have your custodial parent(s) or Court Appointed Guardian file for you.

THERE IS A DRESS CODE IN THE COURTROOM.

SUMMARY OF STEPS:

For Petition for Modification of existing Custody Order, Petition for Special Relief, Petition for Contempt, Petition for Relocation or Motion to Continue Custody Conference .

Note: When filling out the forms parties must be identified as Plaintiff or Defendant as they are listed on the *original* custody Complaint, regardless of who is filing the Petition. The person filing the petition is the *Petitioner*, the other party is the *Respondent*.

Before you go to Court:

1. Complete the appropriate forms in ink, not pencil. Incomplete forms may be refused. **You must include a copy of your original Custody Order.**
2. Give the other party, and their attorney, **3 business day's written NOTICE, of the exact date you intend to see the Judge, before you go to motions court. Send or give the other party the Notice of Intention to Present along with copies of the documents you will be presenting to the judge.**
3. **Make sure you look at the IMPORTANT INFORMATION sheet on page 3! There are NOTICE, FILING AND SERVICE requirements that must be strictly followed.**

In Court:

4. Take completed forms to Motions Court, Courtroom #2, Second Floor of the Courthouse, no later than 8:45 a.m. Monday through Thursday. Do NOT be late. Late motions will not be heard. Go into the Courtroom, have a seat and wait your turn.
5. The Judge will sign the petition and assign a hearing date, if needed. You will then receive a clocked copy of the Order and the original will be returned to you.

After you leave Court:

6. Obtain the Proof of Service and/or an acceptance of service form from the Law Clerk.
7. **FILE** the papers in the Prothonotary's Office (1st floor).
8. **SERVE** the other party with a copy of the Complaint/Petition and the Order signed by the Judge.
9. **FILE** either a Proof of Service or Acceptance of Service Form with the Prothonotary after service has been done.
10. Bring a copy of the Proof of Service that you filed in the Prothonotary's office to ALL later hearings, conferences and/or trials.

YOU MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD TO FILE ON YOUR OWN

If you are not 18 years old you must have your custodial parent(s) or Court Appointed Guardian file for you.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. **NOTICE**: Depending on what documents you are filing you must give the other party advance notice of the exact day and time you are planning to go to Motions Court.

Petition for Emergency Custody: at least 24 hours notice BEFORE you give your papers to the Judge

Petition for Modification

Petition for Contempt

Petition for Relocation

Motion to Continue

Petition for Special relief

Request to Withdraw Complaint for Custody

3 business days written notice BEFORE you give your papers to the Judge

Send or give the other party the Notice of Intention to Present along with copies of the documents you will be presenting to the judge.

If there is a PFA, you may send the legal paperwork but do NOT include any other letters, notes, etc. If it is a true emergency, you may have a family member or friend call or hand deliver copies of the notice.

If you do not know where the other party lives, you must read PA Rules of Court # 430 & ! 1930.4 and Beaver County Local Rule # 430 and follow the required procedures.

2. **FILING**

- a. After you have presented your motion to the Judge you must file all of the original documents that you gave to the Judge with the Prothonotary's office
- b. You must also return to the Prothonotary's office to file the Proof of Service form after you have served the other party (see below)

3. **SERVICE**

- a. You must give the other party copies of all documents that you presented to the judge.
- b. You must either serve the other party by mail or by hand delivery
- c. If you serve the other party by mail you must send the documents by both **Regular mail and Certified mail**.
 - i. Complete the Proof of Service form by checking both regular mail and certified mail
 - ii. After you have received the green card verifying certified mail delivery, staple that green card to the Proof of Service form and **AGAIN file with the Prothonotary's office**
- d. If you choose to hand deliver the documents you must have the other party sign an **Acceptance of Service form**. **You MUST FILE the Acceptance of Service in the Prothonotary's office after it is signed.**

******* Always keep a copy of the Proof of Service documents for your records and ALWAYS bring the Proof of Service forms to all Conciliation Conferences, Pre-Trial Conferences and/or Hearings/Trials in Court.***

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF BEAVER COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA**

_____,
Plaintiff,
vs. _____ No. _____
_____,
Defendant.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PRESENT

TO: _____

(name & address of the other party)

Please take notice that I intend to present the attached Motion/ Petitions on (date)_____ at 8:45 a.m, Courtroom No. 2, Beaver County Courthouse, Beaver, PA. If you wish to oppose the requested relief or action, you should appear at that time and present your objections to the court.

Date _____

Petitioner

CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have caused to be served a true and correct copy of the attached on the above named defendant at least 3 business days prior to the date of presenting the Motion by way of (check all that apply):

_____ regular mail
_____ certified mail
_____ hand delivery

Petitioner

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF BEAVER COUNTY
P E N N S Y L V A N I A

CIVIL DIVISION

_____	:	No. _____
Plaintiff,	:	Civil Action – Law
	:	
vs.	:	Type of Pleading:
	:	Petition for Civil Contempt
	:	
	:	
_____	:	Filed on behalf of:
Defendant.	:	
	:	_____
	:	(Your Name)
	:	
	:	Filing Party's Information:(Your Name)
	:	Name: _____
	:	Address: _____
	:	_____
	:	_____
	:	Telephone #: _____

VERIFICATION

I, _____, verify that the statements made in this Petition for Civil Contempt are true and correct. I understand that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann § 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities which provides that if I knowingly make false averments, I may be subject to criminal penalties.

Petitioner

Date: _____

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF BEAVER COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA

Plaintiff
vs. No. _____

Defendant

NOTICE AND ORDER TO APPEAR

Legal proceedings have been brought against you alleging you have willfully disobeyed an order of court for (custody) (partial custody) (visitation).

If you wish to defend against the claim set forth in the following pages, you may but are not required to file in writing with the court your defenses or objections.

Whether or not you file in writing with the court your defenses or objections, you must appear in person at _____,
Beaver, PA 15009 on (date) _____ at (time) _____ .
(date & time assigned by the court)

IF YOU DO NOT APPEAR IN PERSON, THE COURT MAY ISSUE A WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST.

If the court finds that you have willfully failed to comply with its order for (custody)(partial custody)(visitation), you may be found to be in contempt of court and committed to jail, fined or both or be subject to additional sanctions including loss of custody time, attorney's fees, and/or costs.

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER OR CANNOT AFFORD ONE, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP.

Lawyer Referral Service
788 Turnpike Street
Beaver, PA 15009
(724) 728-4888

BY THE COURT

JUDGE
(signed by the Court)