



WASHINGTON COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PRO SE CUSTODY PACKET

NOTICE

ALL PARTIES INVOLVED IN LITIGATION ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO SEEK PROFESSIONAL LEGAL ADVICE FROM AN ATTORNEY. Court staff cannot offer any legal advice. The information in this packet is not a substitute for professional legal advice. The Court assumes no responsibility and accepts no liability for actions taken by users of these documents, including reliance on their contents.

If you desire to speak with an attorney and do not know one, you should call the Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) at 724-225-6710 to schedule a half-hour consultation with a licensed, insured attorney who has experience in the area of law related to your legal matter. The initial half-hour consultation with the attorney is \$30; any fees beyond the first half-hour should be discussed and agreed upon by you and the lawyer.

If you meet certain income and other qualifications, you may be able to secure an attorney through Southwestern PA Legal Services, at 724-225-6170.

If you have questions about domestic violence or believe that you may be the victim of domestic violence, we strongly recommend that you contact the *Washington County Women's Shelter* at 724-223-8349.

If you suspect child abuse, please contact *CHILDLINE* at 1-800-932-0313. You can report suspected child abuse 24 hours per day and remain anonymous.

PETITION FOR RELOCATION & ORDER

A copy of your current Custody Order should be attached to your Petition.

Motions Court

If you are filing for relocation, you **MUST** provide a copy of your Petition for Relocation to the other party and you **MUST** give them five (5) business days notice of when you intend to go to Motions' Court.

Motions Court is held every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9:15 a.m. in Courtroom No. 4 on the third floor of the Courthouse before Judge Gary M. Gilman.

You **must** notify the court that you are appearing in Motions Court by dropping off your Petition for Relocation to the Judge's Chambers by Noon the day before you intend to appear before the Judge. Disregard for this prior notification to the court could result in you being turned away and asked to return the following day.

SUMMARY OF STEPS

- 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. After giving proper notice to the opposing party go to Motions Court at 9:15 a.m.**
- 3. The Judge will schedule a hearing and sign the Order.**
- 4. File the papers in the Prothonotary's Office (1st floor).**

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

NOTICE OF RELOCATION

You, _____ are hereby notified that _____ (relocating individual) intends to relocate with the following minor child(ren): _____

To object to the proposed relocation, you must complete the attached counter-affidavit, file it with the court and serve it upon the party seeking to relocate by certified mail, return receipt requested, within thirty (30) days. If the court does not receive your objection to the proposed relocation within thirty (30) days, the relocating individual has the right to petition the court to approve the proposed relocation and to modify any effective custody orders or agreements. FAILURE TO OBJECT WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS WILL PREVENT YOU FROM OBJECTING TO THE RELOCATION.

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 OFFICES SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP.

IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD AN ATTORNEY:

IF YOU CAN AFFORD AN ATTORNEY:

SOUTHWESTERN PA LEGAL SERVICES
10 WEST CHERRY AVENUE
WASHINGTON, PA 15301
724.225.6170

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE
119 SOUTH COLLEGE STREET
WASHINGTON, PA 15301
724.225.6710

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990

The Court of Common Pleas of Washington County, Pennsylvania is required by law to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For information about accessible facilities and reasonable accommodations available to disabled individuals having business before the Court, please contact our office. All arrangements must be made at least 72 hours prior to any hearing.

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

CIVIL DIVISION

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

PETITION FOR RELOCATION

Petitioner, _____ files this Petition for Relocation.

1. Plaintiff is _____ (*name*) [Mother/Father], who currently resides at _____
(*address*)

2. Defendant is _____ (*name*) [Mother/Father], who currently resides at _____
(*address*)

3. The Plaintiff & Defendant are the parents of the following minor child(ren):

Name	Present Residence (<i>give full address</i>)	Date of Birth	Age
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

4. On _____ (*date*), the Court entered a Custody Order. (You **must** attach a copy of the current custody order to your petition).

5. Address of the intended new residence: _____
 Check here if address is confidential.

6. Mailing address of intended new residence (if not the same as above):

Check here if address is confidential.

7. Names and ages of the individuals who intend to reside at the new residence:

Name

Age

8. Home telephone number of the new residence: _____

9. Name of the new school district and school the child(ren) will attend after relocation: _____

10. Date of the proposed relocation: _____

11. Reasons for the proposed relocation: _____

12. Proposed modification of custody schedule following relocation: _____

13. These opportunities are not available where Mother/Father and the child(ren) presently live.

14. Petitioner's motivation for moving is *solely* to improve the quality of life for the child(ren) and herself/himself.

15. Petitioner *is not* motivated in any way by a desire to frustrate the relationship between Mother/Father and the child(ren).

16. A custody arrangement can be established that will allow the other parent frequent and substantial contact with the child(ren). The child(ren) will have an opportunity to continue and maintain a meaningful relationship with the other parent, and the other parent will have the opportunity to share in the love and rearing of the child(ren).

17. Petitioner's proposed move is not the result of a momentary whim; rather, Petitioner has carefully considered the options that are available to her/him and the child(ren).

18. Mother/Father would like to relocate with the child(ren) by _____ (*date*).

19. If relocation is granted, Petitioner is willing to expand the current custodial arrangements and is willing to contribute to the transportation costs for the child(ren) for the time with the other parent.

20. A counter-affidavit is attached if the opposing party objects to the proposed relocation.

NOTICE: IF A COUNTER-AFFIDAVIT IS NOT FILED WITH THE COURT WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE RELOCATION PETITION YOU SHALL BE FORECLOSED FROM OBJECTING TO THE RELOCATION REQUESTS.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner requests that this Honorable Court enter an Order allowing Petitioner to relocate to _____ (*address*).

Date: _____

Petitioner

VERIFICATION

I, _____, verify that the statements made in this Petition for Relocation 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.

Date: _____

Petitioner

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
CIVIL DIVISION

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

COUNTER-AFFIDAVIT
REGARDING RELOCATION

21. This proposal of relocation involves the following child(ren):

Name	Present Residence <i>(full address)</i>	Date of Birth	Age
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

22. I have received a notice of proposed relocation and:

_____ I do not object to the relocation and I do not object to the modification of the custody order consistent with the proposal for revised custody schedule as attached to the notice.

_____ I do not object to the relocation, but I do object to the modification of the custody order, and I request that a hearing be scheduled:

_____ Prior to allowing the relocation.

_____ After the child(ren) have relocated.

23. I do object to the relocation and I do object to the modification of the custody order, and I further request that a hearing be held on both matters prior to the relocation taking place.

I understand that in addition to checking (2) or (3) above, I must also file this notice with the court in writing and serve it on the other party by certified mail, return receipt requested. If I fail to do so within thirty (30) days of my receipt of the proposed relocation notice, I shall be foreclosed from objecting to the relocation.

Date: _____

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

ORDER

AND NOW, this _____ day of _____, 2012, upon consideration of Petitioner's Petition for Relocation, it is hereby ORDERED and DECREED as follows:

- (1) A Pre-Trial Conference is scheduled on the _____ day of _____, 2012 at _____ o'clock ____ M.
- (2) A Trial on the Petition is set for the _____ day of _____, 2012, at _____ o'clock ____ M. in Courtroom No. 4 of the Washington County Courthouse.

BY THE COURT:

GARY J. GILMAN, Judge