

This form is intended for individuals seeking joint custody of their minor child(ren) and who:

- ✓ Have no prior legal custody agreement set forth by the court.

Instructions:

1. Be sure you have the correct petition.
2. Fill in the blanks with 100% accurate information- *any false statement made under oath contained in the foregoing petition may constitute perjury.*
3. Check all options that pertain to your situation.
4. If you have trouble reading, writing, or understanding what is in this petition, ask a SHRC Volunteer for help.
5. Once you have filled out your petition, ask a SHRC Volunteer to look through it with you to ensure it is correct and complete.

What you will need:

1. Proof that you are the biological parent or legal guardian of the child(ren), such as a birth certificate or affidavit of paternity.
2. The address of the child(ren)'s parent who will be served with this petition.
3. To fill out and complete a "Joint Custody Implementation Plan."
4. To have both biological parents and/or guardians agree and sign the "Joint Custody Implementation Plan."
5. The necessary court costs by cash or money order OR an *in forma pauperis* application.

PETITIONER

Number _____ Division _____

9th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

VERSUS

PARISH OF RAPIDES

DEFENDANT

STATE OF LOUISIANA

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANT
PETITION FOR JOINT CUSTODY

The petition of _____ (Petitioner's name), a major domiciled in the Parish (or County) of _____, State of _____, with respect represents:

I. DEFENDANT

Made Defendant herein is _____ (Defendant's name), a major currently domiciled in the Parish (or County) of _____, State of _____.

II. VENUE

Pursuant to Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Art. 74.2, this Court is a proper court of venue insofar as one or both parties are domiciled in the Parish of Rapides, State of Louisiana.

III. CHILDREN

The parties were previously involved in an intimate relationship. Of the relationship, _____ (number) children were born, namely (list name(s) and age(s)):

_____.

The minor child(ren) currently reside with Petitioner/Defendant (circle one), since _____ (date).

The children are currently in the custody and care of _____ for the following reason(s): _____

_____.

IV. JOINT CUSTODY

Petitioner avers that it is in the child(ren)'s best interest that the parties be awarded joint custody, with _____ (name of domiciliary parent) designated as the domiciliary parent, with reasonable visitation rights to _____ (name of parent getting visitation), pursuant to a Joint Custody Implementation Plan to be submitted to the Court.

V. VISITATION

Petitioner avers that it is in the best interest of the child that _____ (Name of Parent getting Visitation) be granted reasonable visitation rights, pursuant to a Joint Custody Implementation Plan submitted to the court.

VI. REASONING

Petitioner respectfully requests that the Honorable Judge award Petitioner and Defendant joint custody with visitation for the following reason(s): _____

VII. COSTS

_____ Petitioner is poor and does not have the ability to pre-pay the court costs or to pay the costs as they accrue, and requests that Petitioner be allowed to file *in forma pauperis* under the Code of Civil Procedure Articles 5185-5188.

_____ Petitioner is able to pay and will pay the court costs in addition to any service charge and tax.

_____ Petitioner requests that the Defendant be cast with all costs for said reasons:

_____ Petitioner requests that Defendant share equally in the court costs.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, petitioner prays that:

_____ After all legal delays and due proceedings, there be judgment granting joint care, custody, and control of the minor child(ren), namely, (child(ren)'s name):

with _____ (name of domiciliary parent) designated as the domiciliary parent.

_____ Reasonable visitation rights be granted to _____ (name of parent getting visitation), pursuant to a Joint Custody Implementation Plan to be submitted to the Court.

_____ Defendant be cast with all costs of these proceedings;

_____ Petitioner and Defendant split costs of these proceedings equally;

_____ That Petitioner be allowed to file and proceed with this divorce *in forma pauperis*.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

BY: _____
(Signature)

IN PROPER PERSON (Print name)

Address

Telephone Number

SERVE DEFENDANT

Name: _____

Address: _____

Forms prepared through collaboration of Self Help Resource Center Volunteers and the 9th Judicial District Court for the Parish of Rapides. No representation or enrollment as counsel is expressed or implied.

PETITIONER

Number _____ Division ____

9th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

VERSUS

PARISH OF RAPIDES

DEFENDANT

STATE OF LOUISIANA

VERIFICATION

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF RAPIDES

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally came and appeared

PETITIONER

who being duly sworn, deposed:

That he/she is the petitioner in the above "Custody and Visitation" petition; that all of the allegations of fact made in the petition are true, except those allegation made on information and belief; and that as to these, affiant believes them to be true.

PETITIONER (Signature)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____,
20__.

NOTARY PUBLIC

PETITIONER

Number _____ Division _____

9th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

VERSUS

PARISH OF RAPIDES

DEFENDANT

STATE OF LOUISIANA

ORDER

Considering the above pleadings:

IT IS ORDERED that the parties and their attorneys, if any, appear on the _____ day of _____, 20____, at ____:_____.m. for a pre-trial conference.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the defendant show cause on the _____ day of _____, 20____, at ____:_____.m. why the mover, _____(name), should not be awarded joint custody of the minor child with _____ designated as domiciliary parent and visitation granted to _____.

Alexandria, LOUISIANA, this _____ day of _____, 20____.

JUDGE, 9th Judicial District Court

PLEASE SERVE:

Name

Address

City, State Zip

PETITIONER

Number _____ Division ____

9th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

VERSUS

PARISH OF RAPIDES

DEFENDANT

STATE OF LOUISIANA

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANT
JOINT CUSTODY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

NOW INTO COURT, through undersigned counsel, comes _____,
Petitioner in these proceedings, who proposes to the Court the following joint custody plan for
the care and custody of the minor children, namely (List names of children and age) _____
_____.

1. _____ (Petitioner) and _____ (Defendant)
shall have joint custody of their children, namely (list names) _____
_____.

and each parent shall have all rights, privileges and responsibilities as provided by Louisiana
Civil Code Articles 146 and 250, as amended, except where those rights, privileges and
responsibilities are in direct conflict with the express provisions of this proposed joint custody
plan;

2. _____ (name of parent) shall have the right to
physical custody of the children during the school year from August through May. During the
school year, _____ (name of parent) shall have the right to have
the children visit the ____ and ____ weekends of each month, commencing at ____ o'clock
__M. on _____ and ending at ____ o'clock __M. on _____;

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(Check which is preferred)

_____ During the school year, the parent without physical custody is allowed reasonable phone visitation with the child(ren).

_____ During the school year, the parent without physical custody is NOT allowed reasonable phone visitation with the child(ren), for the following reason(s): _____
_____.

3. The visitation privileges during the holidays shall be as follows:

A. MAJOR HOLIDAYS: (Indicate which parent shall have visitation and time)

- EASTER: _____
Commencing at ___ o'clock __.M. and ending at ___ o'clock __.M.
- JULY 4TH: _____
Commencing at ___ o'clock __.M. and ending at ___ o'clock __.M.
- THANKSGIVING: _____
Commencing at ___ o'clock __.M. and ending at ___ o'clock __.M.
- CHRISTMAS EVE: _____
Commencing at ___ o'clock __.M. and ending at ___ o'clock __.M.
- CHRISTMAS DAY: _____
Commencing at ___ o'clock __.M. and ending at ___ o'clock __.M.
- MEMORIAL DAY: _____
Commencing at ___ o'clock __.M. and ending at ___ o'clock __.M.
- LABOR DAY: _____
Commencing at ___ o'clock __.M. and ending at ___ o'clock __.M.
- MARDI GRAS: _____
Commencing at ___ o'clock __.M. and ending at ___ o'clock __.M.

B. MOTHER'S DAY/FATHER'S DAY

The children shall be with their father on Father's Day beginning at ___ o'clock __.M. and ending at ___ o'clock __.M.

The children shall be with their mother on Mother's Day beginning at ___ o'clock __.M. and ending at ___ o'clock __.M.

Other: _____

_____.

C. CHILD(REN)'S BIRTHDAY: (Indicate time of visitation by each parent)

_____.

D. SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

_____ (name of parent) will have visitation for days during the school holidays that are in excess of one week in duration, which include Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas/New Years;

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4. During the summer months of June, July, and August, visitation privileges shall be as follows:
(Indicate parent with physical custody and parent with visitation; specify visitation days and times.)

(Check which is preferred)

_____ During the summer months, the parent without physical custody is allowed reasonable phone visitation with the child(ren).

_____ During the summer months, the parent without physical custody is NOT allowed reasonable phone visitation with the child(ren), for the following reason(s): _____

In this Joint-Custody Implementation plan, Petitioner and Defendant agree on the following:
(Check all that apply)

_____ The father and mother are obligated to exchange information concerning the health, education and welfare of the child; they shall confer with each other in the exercise of decision-making rights, responsibilities and authority concerning the major medical, dental, institutional, psychiatric or other care and schooling, education, religious and church placements of the child.

_____ Each parent has the right to inspect and receive all school, medical and other records pertaining to the child.

_____ Both the mother and father shall keep each other informed of their address and phone number and, particularly, the address and phone number of the place where the child shall reside or are staying, at all times;

_____ The parent having actual physical custody of the child, whether by visitation or physical custody privileges, at the time of any medical or dental emergency, shall have the sole responsibility for meeting that emergency, and in such emergency the permission of the other parent is not necessary.

_____ The father and mother of the children will be responsible for one-half (1/2) of any

and all medical bill incurred on behalf of the child that are not covered by hospitalization insurance.

_____ Each parent is obligated to notify the other in writing at least thirty (30) days in advance of any move or change of address.

In this instance that one of the following were NOT checked, indicate why, here: _____

Other visitation implementations that parties request: _____

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

PETITIONER (Print name)

PETITIONER (Signature)

DEFENDANT (Print name)

DEFENDANT (Signature)