

This form is intended for individuals seeking sole 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. 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 SOLE CUSTODY

NOW INTO COURT, comes _____, the Petitioner, a person of the full age of majority and domiciled in Parish (or County) of _____, State of _____, who respectfully represents that:

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 child(ren) are currently in the custody and care of _____, for the following reasons: _____

IV. SOLE CUSTODY

Petitioner avers that it is in the best interest of the child or children that _____
_____ (Petitioner) be awarded sole custody for the following reason(s): _____

_____.

V. VISITATION (check one that applies)

_____ Petitioner avers that it is in the best interest of the child that _____
(name of parent getting visitation) be granted reasonable/supervised (circle one) visitation rights,
pursuant to this petition for Sole Custody.

_____ Petitioner avers that it is NOT in the best interest of the child that _____
(name of parent not getting visitation) be granted reasonable visitation rights, for the
following reason(s): _____

_____.

VI. 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 for:

_____ A rule to show cause in the above captioned matter directed to defendant-in-rule,
_____ (name of defendant) to show cause, on the
date and time fixed by this court why Petitioner should not be awarded sole custody of the minor
child or children.

_____ Defendant to be cast with all costs of these proceedings;

_____ Petitioner and Defendant to split costs of these proceedings equally;

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

BY: _____
(Signature)

_____,
IN PROPER PERSON (Print name)

Address

Telephone Number

PLEASE SERVE DEFENDANT

Name: _____

Address: _____

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 petitioner, _____ (name), should not be awarded sole custody of the minor child(ren).

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

JUDGE, 9th Judicial District Court

PLEASE SERVE:

Name

Address

City, State Zip