

**IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA**

In the Interest of:

Case Number: _____

File Number: _____

A child.

SUMMONS AND PROCESS – TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

To: Name : _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code

_____ A Petition has been filed in this Court concerning the above-named child. A copy of that Petition is attached to this Summons. This is a Summons requiring you to be in court. If you fail to come to court as required you may be held in contempt of court and punished accordingly. A party shall be entitled to have an attorney in the proceedings and the Court will appoint an attorney if the party is an indigent person. A child shall be appointed an attorney.

NOW THEREFORE, you, the child named above, are commanded to be and appear on the date and time stated below, and to remain in attendance from hour to hour, day to day, month to month, year to year, and time to time, as said case may be continued, and until discharged by the court, and you are commanded to lay any and all business aside and to be and appear before the Juvenile Court of Chatham County, Georgia, located at 197 Carl Griffin Drive, Savannah, Georgia on **the ____ day of _____, _____ at _____.**, and you, the said parent, guardian or legal custodian named above, are likewise hereby commanded to be and appear with the aforesaid child in said court at the time and place above stated, each of you then and there to make defense thereto and to show cause why the said child and all parties named herein should not be dealt with according to the provisions of the law.

WITNESS, the Honorable Thomas L. Cole, Judge of said Court, this the ____ day of _____, 2020.

Clerk/Deputy Clerk
Juvenile Court of Chatham County

ORDER DIRECTING CHILD’S PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN TO APPEAR PERSONALLY AT THE HEARING AND DIRECTING THE PERSON HAVING PHYSICAL CUSTODY OR CONTROL OF THE CHILD TO BRING SUCH CHILD TO THE HEARING.

SO ORDERED this ____ day of _____, 20_.

Judge of the Juvenile Court

READ CAREFULLY

- This Summons requires you to be present at a formal hearing in the Juvenile Court. You must DRESS APPROPRIATELY for Court and BE ON TIME. No Cell Phones may be used in the courtroom without prior approval of the Judge.
- The child and other parties involved have the right to be represented by a lawyer at all stages of these proceedings. If you want a lawyer, you may choose and hire your own lawyer. If you want to hire a lawyer, please contact your lawyer immediately.
- If you want a lawyer but are not able to hire a lawyer without undue financial hardship, you may ask for a lawyer to be appointed to represent you.
- After consideration of your financial circumstances, if the Court finds you to be financially *unable* to hire a lawyer, then a lawyer will be appointed to represent you. You must let the Court, a court officer, and/or DJJ know immediately if you want a lawyer for your case.
- If you need an interpreter or special assistance for Court, please call the Clerk at 912-652-6700 five days prior to your Court date. *Si usted necesita un intérprete o la ayuda especial en la corte, por favor de llamar al 912-652-6700 cinco días antes de su cita la corte.*

NOTICE OF EFFECT OF TERMINATION JUDGMENT - OCGA Section 15-11-284

Georgia law provided that you can permanently lose your rights as a parent. A petition to terminate parental rights has been filed requesting the court to terminate your parental rights to your child(ren). A copy of the petition to terminate parental rights is attached to this notice. A court hearing of your case has been scheduled for the 3rd day of July, 2019 at 11:15 am at the Juvenile Court of Chatham County.

If you fail to appear, the court can terminate your rights in your absence. If the court at the trial finds that the facts set out in the petition to terminate parental rights are true and that termination of your rights will serve the best interests of your child(ren), the court can enter a judgment ending your rights to your child.

If the judgment terminates your parental rights, you will no longer have any rights to visit your child. This means that you will not have the right to visit, contact, or have custody of your child or make any decisions affecting your child(ren) or your child(ren)'s earnings or property. Your child will be legally freed to be adopted by someone else.

Even if your parental rights are terminated:

1. You will still be responsible for providing financial support (child support payments) for your child(ren)'s care unless and until your child(ren) is adopted; and
2. Your child can still inherit from you unless and until your child is adopted.

This is a very serious matter. You should contact an attorney immediately so that you can be prepared for the court hearing. You have the right to hire an attorney and have him or her represent you. If you cannot afford to hire an attorney, the court will appoint an attorney if the court finds that you are an indigent person. Whether or not you decide to hire an attorney, you have the right to attend the hearing of your case, to call witnesses on your behalf, and to question those witnesses brought against you.

If you have any questions concerning this notice, you may call the telephone number of the clerk's office which is 912-652-6700. *Court personnel cannot provide any assistance to you in preparing required paperwork as this would amount to the unauthorized practice of law. This includes*

