

CONTESTED DIVORCE WITH MINOR CHILDREN PACKET

This forms packet is designed to guide you in the preparation of your divorce papers. You must fill in the required information as it applies to your situation. Your papers should remain in the same order as they appear in this packet. If you do not have access to a typewriter, you may fill in the blanks by hand, in neat print, using BLACK ink.

You should fill in every blank line EXCEPT for the civil action file number blanks and the lines provided for signatures by the Notary Public and the Judge.

In the Complaint and the Settlement Agreement, there are some sections that have two possible answers, separated by an [OR]. In these sections, you must choose which of the two choices fits best in your situation, and then include only that choice in your documents. The other choice should be ignored, and should not be included in your documents.

Make sure that everything is signed. All signatures that require notarization must be notarized before your documents will be approved for filing.

Court personnel are not allowed to answer any questions concerning the preparation of these forms. State Law O.C.G.A. §15-19-51 forbids court personnel to give legal advice. Different situations may require special procedures and courthouse personnel cannot advise you on how to proceed or what forms may be necessary in specific situations. Divorce can be very complicated. The only person allowed to help you in the preparation of these forms is a licensed attorney. Please consult an attorney if you have questions about the procedure or what action is best for you to take.

YOU MAY NEED AN ATTORNEY IF:

- The case is contested and your spouse has a lawyer.
- You cannot locate your spouse to serve him or her with your papers.
- You or your spouse has a house, pension, or large amount of property or income.
- You might lose custody of your children.
- You think you will have difficulty getting documents from your spouse about retirement funds, income, etc.
- Even if it is a friendly divorce, you should talk to a lawyer before you sign any settlement papers or file anything in court.

In the packets for marriages with children, there is a form called the Domestic Relations Financial Affidavit. Each party will have to have one of these forms filled out prior to the final hearing on the divorce.

If the Defendant has filed an acknowledgment of service, then each party must submit their Domestic Relations Financial Affidavit at the time the case is filed.

If the Defendant does not file an acknowledgement of service, and the Sheriff has to serve a copy of the complaint and summons on the Defendant, the Plaintiff must still file a copy of the Domestic Relations Financial Affidavit with his or her complaint. The Defendant should be served with a copy of the Domestic Relations Financial Affidavit along with the complaint and summons.

Remember, you must fully complete the forms before the Judge will be able to grant you a decree of divorce. Incomplete forms, as well as forms that are improperly filled out, may delay the grant of your divorce. Make sure that you take time to read over all the forms, and understand what is being asked of you in each situation.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

)	
Plaintiff)	
)	
)	
v.	)	Civil Action No. _____
)	
)	
)	
Defendant.)	

COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE

Plaintiff, _____ [Name], comes before
this Court and shows this Court as follows:

1.

Subject Matter Jurisdiction (Check only one: a or b)

- ☐ a) Plaintiff is a resident of _____ County, Georgia, and has been a resident of Georgia for at least six months prior to the filing of this action.
- ☐ b) Plaintiff is not a resident of the State of Georgia, but Plaintiff's spouse has been a resident of the state of Georgia and the county of _____ for at least six (6) months prior to my filing this action.

2.

Venue (Check only one: a, b, c, d, e or f)

- ☐ a) Defendant is a resident of _____ County, Georgia, and has acknowledged service of the Complaint and Summons and has waived further service of process.
- ☐ b) Defendant is a resident of _____ County, _____ (state) and has signed an ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SERVICE AFFIDAVIT OF WAIVER OF VENUE AND PERSONAL JURISDICTION.

☐ c) Defendant is a resident of _____ County, Georgia and may be served at his/her residence/work address of:

_____.

☐ d) The Defendant is a resident of _____ County, Georgia but Defendant and I lived together in _____ County at the time we separated, Defendant has only moved from _____ County within the past six months from the date of this filing, and I am a resident of _____ County. Defendant shall be served by second original at his/her home/work address of

_____.

☐ e) The Defendant is a resident of Georgia, but his/her whereabouts are unknown to me as shown by my Affidavit of Due Diligence attached hereto and incorporated by reference, marked Exhibit A. The Defendant shall be served by publication as is provided by law in the case of those who cannot be found within the State pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9-11-4(f)(1). The clerk shall mail a copy of the Notice, Order for Service by Publication, and Petition for Divorce to the last known address of Defendant, which is

_____.

within 15 days of the filing of the Order for Service by Publication.

☐ f) Defendant is not a resident of the State of Georgia, but I am a resident of _____ County Georgia and (Check 1, 2, 3 or 4)

1. ☐ The Defendant was formerly a resident of the State of Georgia and presently is a resident of the State of _____. Defendant may be served by a second original pursuant to the Long Arm Statute, O.C.G.A. §

9-10-91(5). Defendant may be served at the following address:

2. ☐ The Defendant's whereabouts are unknown to me as shown by my Affidavit of Due Diligence, attached hereto and incorporated by reference, marked Exhibit A. The Respondent shall be served by publication as is provided by law in the case of those who cannot be found within the State pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9-10-91(5). The clerk shall mail a copy of the Notice, Order for Service

3.

Date of Marriage (Check only one: a or b)

- ☐ a) Plaintiff and Defendant were lawfully married on _____ in _____ County, _____ (State).
- ☐ b) Plaintiff and Defendant are common law married, having entered into a common law marriage before January 1 1997 as of _____ in _____ County, _____ (State).

Note: Common law marriage was abolished in Georgia in 1997.

4.

Date of Separation

- ☐ The Defendant and I separated on _____ and have remained in a bona fide state of separation since that date.

5.

Children born of the marriage

- ☐ There are _____ minor children born of the marriage.

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Name: _____ DOB: _____

6.

Grounds for Divorce (Check one or more grounds that you can prove)

Plaintiff is entitled to a divorce from the Defendant upon the statutory grounds that:

☐ The marriage is **irretrievably broken** and there is no hope of reconciliation, under

O.C.G.A. § 19-5-3(13). [*This is the no-fault divorce provision.*]

☐ **Cruel Treatment.** My spouse committed the following acts of cruel treatment to me such that I am afraid he/she will hurt me in the future:

☐ **Adultery.** My spouse has had sexual intercourse outside the marriage.

☐ **Desertion.** On or about _____ (date), my spouse, without just cause or reason, intentionally abandoned and deserted me for a period of at least one year as follows:

☐ **Intermarriage.** My spouse and I are related as follows:

☐ **Mental incapacity.** I did not have the mental capacity to enter into a marriage when we married because _____

☐ **Impotency.** My spouse was impotent at the time of our marriage, and I was not aware of this.

☐ **Force, menace, duress, fraud in obtaining the marriage.** I entered this marriage against my will as a result of _____.

☐ **Pregnancy of the wife at the time of the marriage unknown to the husband.** I did not know that my spouse was pregnant by another man when we got married.

☐ **Conviction of party for an offense involving moral turpitude.** On or about _____, my spouse was sentenced to serve at least two years in the penitentiary for the following:

☐ **Habitual intoxication.** My spouse is repeatedly intoxicated.

☐ **My spouse has been adjudged mentally ill by a court of competent jurisdiction.** My spouse has been confined in an institution for the mentally ill for a period of at least two years immediately preceding this action. My spouse's mental illness has been determined to be incurable by competent examiners, and I have attached a certified statement that it is this person's opinion that my spouse is hopelessly and incurably mentally ill.

☐ **Habitual Drug Addiction.** My spouse is addicted to drugs as follows:

7.

Alimony (Check only one: a, b or c)

- ☐ a) I am seeking temporary alimony which will last until the date of the final decree of divorce. I did not engage in adultery, desertion, cruel treatment, or other fault grounds for divorce.
- ☐ b) I am seeking temporary and permanent alimony which will last until I remarry or until my former spouse or I should die. I did not engage in adultery, desertion, cruel treatment, or other fault grounds for divorce.
- ☐ c) I voluntarily waive alimony.

8.

Marital Property (Check only one: a, b or c)

- ☐ a) Defendant and I have no marital property.
- ☐ b) Defendant and I have already divided our marital property to our mutual satisfaction.
- ☐ c) Defendant and I have the following marital property that I have checked, and I am seeking an equitable division of this property.
 - ☐ A house located at _____.
A notice of Lis Pendens is attached hereto as Exhibit “_____.”
 - ☐ Pension(s): Mine _____ My spouse’s _____.
 - ☐ Motor vehicles (list make, model & year):

-
-
-
-

-
-
-
-

- 9.

☐ a) Defendant and I have no joint outstanding debts.

☐ b) Defendant and I have the following debts. I have indicated which party should be responsible for each debt. The responsible party will indemnify and hold harmless the non-responsible party for any collection on these obligations.

[illegible]

10.

Name Restoration

☐ My former name is _____, and I request that it be restored to me. Year of Birth _____.

11.

Child(ren)'s Past Living Arrangements

For the past five years, the children lived at the following addresses with the following persons:

Address	Dates	Lived With

12.

Other actions involving the children (Choose only one: a or b)

(Please tell the court about the following types of actions: custody, visitation, family violence, protective orders, termination of parental rights, and adoption.)

☐ a) Plaintiff asserts that ☐ he/ ☐ she has not participated as a party or a witness or in any other capacity in any other litigation concerning the children named above, and knows of no proceeding concerning the minor children in this or any other state. No person other than the parties to this action has physical custody of the minor children or any claim to custody or visitation with the minor children.

- ☐ b) The minor children have been involved in the following actions:
(Please tell the court about the following types of actions: custody, visitation, family violence, protective orders, termination of parental rights, and adoption.)

County/State/Court	Type of Custody Action	Date Filed	Status
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

13.

Other Parties with a Custody Claim (Choose only one: a or b)

- ☐ a) I know of no other person, not a party to this proceeding, who has physical custody of the children or claims to have custody or visitation rights with respect to the minor children.
- ☐ b) The following persons who are not a party to this proceeding have custody or visitation rights with the minor children:

Name	Claim
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

14.

Child Custody (Choose only one: a, b or c)

- ☐ a) Plaintiff and Defendant are both fit to share both temporary and permanent joint legal custody of the minor child(ren). It is in the best interest of the minor child(ren) for The _____ to have primary physical custody.

parties shall share decision making concerning the child (ren); however, in the event the parties cannot decide, the ☐ Husband/ ☐ Wife shall have the final decision concerning

☐ b) It is in the best interest of the minor child(ren) for

_____ to have legal custody and _____ to have physical custody.

☐ c) It is in the best interest of the minor child(ren) for _____

to have both legal and physical custody because:

15.

Visitation (Choose only one: a or b)

☐ a) Plaintiff requests that the Defendant be awarded visitation with the minor child(ren) as follows (or attach a schedule):

-
-
- ☐ b) The proposed visitation schedule is attached as Exhibit “_____.”

16.

Child Support Amount

Please go to <https://csconlinecalc.georgiacourts.gov/frontend/web/index.php> and complete the Child Support Worksheet

- ☐ The Husband/Wife shall pay to the Husband/Wife as support of the minor child(ren), the sum of \$ _____ * per ☐ week/ ☐ bi-weekly/ ☐ month, starting on _____, and continuing per ☐ week/ ☐ bi-weekly/ ☐ month thereafter until each respective child reaches the age of eighteen (18), or so long as the child is enrolled in and attending secondary school (not to exceed age twenty (20)), marries, dies, or becomes otherwise emancipated. The child support obligation shall be reduced as follows as each child becomes emancipated:
-

17.

Child Support Method of Payment (Choose only one: a or b)

- ☐ a) Plaintiff asks that all payments of child support shall be paid directly to the Plaintiff at the following address: _____.
- ☐ b) Plaintiff asks that all payments of child support shall be paid directly to the Plaintiff by the Defendant’s employer via an income deduction order. The Plaintiff’s address is: _____.
- ☐ c) Plaintiff asks that all payments of child support shall be paid to Georgia Child Support Enforcement pursuant to an Income Deduction Order.

18.

Health Insurance

- ☐ The Plaintiff asks that _____ shall be required to maintain a policy of medical, dental, and hospitalization insurance for the benefit of the minor child(ren) for so long as the child support obligation set forth herein exists. The Plaintiff asks that costs not covered under the insurance policy shall be divided as follows:
-
-

The Plaintiff asks that _____ shall provide ☐ him / ☐ her with an insurance identification card or such other acceptable proof of insurance coverage and shall cooperate with the Plaintiff in submitting claims under the policy.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests:

- a) That the parties herein be totally divorced;
- b) That the Court grant temporary and permanent custody as requested in this matter;
- c) That the Court order an equitable division of property;
- d) That the Court award temporary and permanent alimony;
- d) That the court award an equitable division of the parties' property;
- e) That the court award the Plaintiff temporary use and possession of the formal marital residence located at _____.
- f) That the court award the Plaintiff temporary use and possession of the vehicle described as follows: _____.
- g) That the Plaintiff have such other and further relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

Respectfully submitted this the _____ day of _____, 20____.

_____,
/S/ Plaintiff *pro se* [Sign here]

Address: _____

Telephone number(s): _____

Exhibit “_____”

VISITATION SCHEDULE

The non-custodial parent is _____.

The custodial parent is _____.

The non-custodial parent shall be entitled to exercise reasonable visitation with the minor child with the following minimum provisions:

- A. On every 1st, 3rd, and 5th Friday at 6:00 p.m. until the following Sunday at 6:00 p.m.;
- B. During even numbered years (2008, 2010, etc.), the non-custodial parent shall have the right of visitation on the holidays delineated below:
 - 1. Martin Luther King’s Birthday
 - 2. Memorial Day
 - 3. Labor Day
 - 4. Thanksgiving
 - 5. Second week of Christmas Vacation from 2:00 p.m. on December 25 until New Year’s Eve.
- C. During odd numbered years (2009, 2011, etc.), the non-custodial parent shall have the right of visitation on the holidays delineated below:
 - 1. New Year’s Day
 - 2. Easter or Spring Break
 - 3. July 4th
 - 4. Halloween
 - 5. First Week of Christmas vacation, including Christmas Day until 2:00 p.m. on December 25.
- D. During even numbered years (2008, 2010, etc.), the custodial parent shall have the minor child on the holidays delineated below:
 - 1. New Year’s Day
 - 2. Easter or Spring Break
 - 3. July 4th
 - 4. Halloween
 - 5. First week of Christmas vacation, including Christmas Day until 2:00 p.m. on December 25.
- E. During odd numbered years (2009, 2011, etc.), the custodial parent shall have the right of visitation on the holidays delineated below:
 - 1. Martin Luther King’s Birthday
 - 2. Memorial Day
 - 3. Labor Day
 - 4. Thanksgiving
 - 5. Second week of Christmas vacation from 2:00 p.m. on December 25 until New Year’s Eve.
- F. The Mother shall have the minor child on Mother’s Day.
- G. The Father shall have the minor child on Father’s Day.
- H. The non-custodial parent shall have the right to visit with the minor child for two consecutive weeks in the summer between June 15 and August 15. During this period, the custodial parent shall have the minor child on the first (1st) weekend from 6:00 p.m. Friday until 6:00 p.m. Sunday. The non-custodial parent shall give the custodial parent a minimum of thirty (30) days written notice of the intent to exercise this visitation.
- I. Holiday visitation shall take precedence over week-end visitation.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPOSED PARENTING PLANS

Where custody and/or visitation is disputed, the parties should provide the following:

1. Each parent shall attach a schedule of their own employment hours for the last year and as far into the future as shall be reasonably predictable, and
2. Shall attach a schedule of the hours of proposed day care utilization identifying the provider including extended family or support group (neighbors, church, etc). (Break out school and summer where applicable.)
3. Attach documentation for any medical conditions of the child or the parent that are relevant to the custody/visitation decision.
4. If home schooling or other special education provisions are proposed, credentials of educator or institution proposed shall be attached.
5. Attach to the proposed plan a schedule for the school district (or private school) where it is proposed the child will be enrolled for as far into the future as the district provides.
6. Where the parties propose split custody attach a detailed explanation of how split custody will be in the best interest of each child and the children, collectively. Include any Guardian ad Litem (GAL), psychological or other recommendations any elections of children over 14.
7. If supervised visitation is sought, a statement of reasons for such a request shall be attached to the proposed plan.
8. Each party shall attach an affidavit affirming or denying the existence of criminal convictions, family violence orders and child welfare investigations concerning affiant as to these or any other parties. If such exists, the affidavit shall identify every criminal conviction of their own, family violence order and Child Welfare (DFACS) investigation or safety plan concerning affiant as to these or any other parties.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

_____	*	
Plaintiff	*	
	*	Civil Action File No. _____
v.	*	
	*	
_____	*	
Defendant	*	

PARENTING PLAN

This plan has been proposed by _____. The proposing party affirms the accuracy of the information provided, as shown by their signature at the end of this proposed plan. This information has been furnished in furtherance of the requirements of OCGA Section 19-9-1.

[If this is a proposed parenting plan, it shall be filed at the time of filing any complaint or answer, and in any event, not less than 10 days before any hearing, and not less than 15 days before any final hearing with copy to opposing counsel/party.]

This plan ☐ is a new plan.
☐ modifies an existing Parenting Plan dated _____.
☐ modifies an existing Order dated _____.

Child's Name	Date of Birth

I. Custody and Decision Making:

a. Legal Custody shall be (choose one):

- ☐ With the Mother
☐ With the Father
☐ Joint

b. Primary Physical Custodian

For each of the children named below the primary physical custodian shall be:

Child's Name	Date of Birth	Mother	Father	Joint
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IF "SPLIT" CUSTODY IS PROPOSED, EACH PARTY SHALL SUBMIT NOT LESS THAN THREE SEPARATE CHILD SUPPORT WORKSHEETS – TWO FOR THE "SPLIT" PROPOSAL AND ONE FOR THE "NON-SPLIT" PROPOSAL.

WHERE JOINT PHYSICAL CUSTODY IS CHOSEN BY THE PARENTS OR ORDERED BY THE COURT, A DETAILED PLAN OF THE LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE CHILD(REN) SHALL BE ATTACHED AND MADE A PART OF THIS PARENTING PLAN.

c. Day-to-Day Decisions

Each parent shall make decisions regarding the day-to-day care of a child while the child is residing with that parent, including any emergency decisions affecting the health or safety of a child.

d. Major Decisions

If major decisions regarding each child are divided, the responsibilities of each parent are as follows: ☐ N/A or ☐ division of responsibilities:

_____.

e. Disagreements

Where parents have elected joint decision making in Section I.d above, please explain how any disagreements in decision-making will be resolved. ☐ mediation ☐ arbitration ☐ other: _____.

II. Parenting Time/Visitation Schedule

a. Parenting Time/Visitation

During the term of this parenting plan the non-custodial parent shall have at a minimum the following rights of parenting time/visitation (choose an item):

- ☐ The weekend of the first and third Friday of each month.
☐ The weekend of the first, third and fifth Friday of each month.
☐ The weekend of the second and fourth Friday of each month.
☐ Every other weekend starting on _____.
Each _____ starting at _____ and ending _____
☐ Other: _____

[illegible]

- d. **Other extended periods of time during school, etc. (refer to the school schedule).**

_____.

e. **Start and end dates for holiday visitation**

For the purposes of this parenting plan, the holiday will start and end as follows (choose one):

- ☐ Holidays that fall on Friday will include the following Saturday and Sunday
☐ Holidays that fall on Monday will include the preceding Saturday and Sunday
☐ Other:

f. **Coordination of Parenting Schedules**

Check if applicable

- ☐ The holiday parenting time/visitation schedule takes precedence over the regular parenting time/visitation schedule.
☐ When the child(ren) is/are with a parent for an extended parenting time/visitation period (such as summer), the other parent shall be entitled to visit with the child(ren) during the extended period, as follows: _____.

g. **Transportation Arrangements**

Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, the delivering parent will be responsible for transportation of the child.

The delivering party will be responsible for costs in connection with the delivery: _____.

Other provisions: _____.

h. **Contacting the Child**

When the child or children are in the physical custody of one parent, the other parent will have the right to contact the child or children as follows:

- ☐ Telephone
☐ Other: _____
☐ Limitations on Contact: _____.

i. **Restrictions on Parenting Time (if applicable)**

- ☐ Check here if applicable.

Parenting time shall be restricted as follows (state with specificity _____ persons, places, activities or other to or from which restrictions apply: _____). State enforcement provisions, including but not limited to supervision, and if supervision by whom or what agency: _____.

Responsibility for Cost: ☐ Mother ☐ Father ☐ Both Equally

Communication Restrictions (if applicable)

- ☐ Check here if applicable.

Please check:

- ☐ Each parent shall promptly notify the other parent of a change of address, phone number or cell phone number. A parent changing residence must give at least 30 days advance notice of the change and provide the full address of the new residence.
- ☐ Due to prior acts of family violence, the address of the child(ren) and victim of family violence shall be kept confidential. The protected parent shall promptly notify the other parent, through a third party, of any change in contact information necessary to conduct visitation.

III. Access to Records and Information

Rights of the Parents

Absent agreement to limitations or court ordered limitations, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-9-1 (b) (1) (D), both parents are entitled to access to all of the child(ren)'s records and information, including, but not limited to, education, health,

extracurricular activities, and religious communications. Designation as a non-custodial parent does not affect a parent's right to equal access to these records.

Limitations on access rights: _____.

Other Information Sharing Provisions: _____.

IV. Modification of Plan or Disagreements

Parties may, by mutual agreement, vary the parenting time/visitation; however, such agreement shall not be a binding court order, nor shall it constitute a defense for contempt unless agreed on in writing. Custody shall only be modified by court order.

Should the parents disagree about this parenting plan or wish to modify it, they must make a good faith effort to resolve the issue between them.

V. Special Considerations

Please attach an addendum detailing any special circumstances of which the Court should be aware (e.g., health issues, educational issues, etc.)

VI. Parental Acknowledgement

Please review the following and initial:

1. I recognize that a close and continuing parent-child relationship and continuity in the child's life is in the child's best interest.

Mother's Initials: _____ Father's Initials: _____

2. I recognize that our child's needs will change and grow as the child matures; I have made a good faith effort to take these changing needs into account so that the need for future modifications to the parenting plan are minimized.

Mother's Initials: _____ Father's Initials: _____

3. I recognize that the parent with physical custody will make the day-to-day decisions and emergency decisions while the child is residing with such parent.

Mother's Initials: _____ Father's Initials: _____

☐ I, the undersigned party, affirm that the information I have provided with this proposal is true and correct.

Mother
[Sign in presence of Notary Public]

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

_____,
Notary Public, State of Georgia
My Commission Expires _____.

Father
[Sign in presence of Notary Public]

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

_____,
Notary Public, State of Georgia
My Commission Expires _____.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

_____	*	
Plaintiff	*	
	*	Civil Action File No. _____
v.	*	
	*	
_____	*	
Defendant	*	

ORDER

The Court has reviewed the foregoing Parenting Plan, and it is hereby made the Order of this Court.

SO ORDERED, this _____ day of _____, 20____ .

JUDGE, Superior Courts
Eastern Judicial Circuit

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

_____	§	
Plaintiff,		
	§	Civil Action
v.		File No. _____
	§	
_____	§	
Defendant.		

SUMMONS

To the above-named defendant:

You are hereby summoned and required to file with the Clerk of said Court and serve upon _____, the pro se plaintiff, whose address is _____ an answer to the complaint which is herewith served upon you, within 30 days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

This _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Clerk of Superior Court, CHATHAM County

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

)	
Plaintiff)	
)	
)	
v.	)	Civil Action No. _____
)	
)	
)	
Defendant.		

VERIFICATION

Personally appeared before me the undersigned who on oath states that the facts set forth in this Complaint are true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Plaintiff *pro se*
[Sign in the presence of a Notary Public]

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

Notary Public, State of Georgia

My Commission Expires: _____

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

)	
Plaintiff)	
)	
)	
v.	)	Civil Action No. _____
)	
)	
)	
Defendant.		

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SERVICE AND SUMMONS

The undersigned Defendant hereby acknowledges service of the above Summons and Complaint for Divorce and states that (s)he has received a copy of said Complaint, and Defendant hereby waives any further service of process.

This the _____ day of _____, 20____.

Defendant *pro se*
[Sign in the presence of a Notary Public]

Sworn to and subscribed before me
This _____ day of _____, 20____.

Notary Public, State of Georgia
My Commission Expires _____.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

)	
Plaintiff)	
)	
)	
v.	)	Civil Action No. _____
)	
)	
)	
Defendant.		

**DEFENDANT'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SERVICE
AFFIDAVIT OF WAIVER OF VENUE AND PERSONAL JURISDICTION**

I, _____, the named Defendant in the above-styled case, after being duly sworn do hereby depose and say that I am a resident of _____ County, _____ (state), and that the Plaintiff in the above-styled case is a resident of _____ County, Georgia. I affirm that I have received a copy of said Petition/Complaint, and I hereby waive any and all further notice, service, and issuance of process.

After being duly informed that I have a constitutional right to a trial by judge or jury on the above matter in the county of my residence, and with that knowledge, I hereby expressly waive my right to venue in the county of my residence, and consent to venue and personal jurisdiction in the county of this superior court.

This _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Defendant Affiant
[Sign in the presence of a Notary Public]

Notary Public

Sworn to and subscribed before me

This _____ day of _____, 20_____.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

)	
Plaintiff)	
)	
)	
v.	)	Civil Action No. _____
)	
)	
)	
Defendant.		

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing Complaint for Divorce upon the following counsel for [party] [or party if no counsel of record] by delivering [or causing to be delivered] by hand a copy of same as follows:

[Name and address of counsel of record, or of parties if no counsel of record.]

This ____ day of _____, 20____.

Plaintiff *pro se* [Sign here]

Address _____

Telephone Number(s) _____

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

)	
Plaintiff)	
)	
)	
v.	)	Civil Action No. _____
)	
)	
)	
Defendant.		

MOTION FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

Comes plaintiff, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9-10-71, and moves the court for an order directing that service on the defendant be made by publication upon the grounds that he/she cannot, after due diligence, be found within the state, as more fully appears from the affidavit filed herewith and attached hereto.

Plaintiff *pro se*

Address: _____

Telephone Number(s) _____

)	
Plaintiff)	
)	
)	
v.)	Civil Action No. _____
)	
)	
)	
Defendant.		

Personally appeared _____, who, after being duly sworn, states:
That the Defendant resides outside the State of Georgia, and his/her last known address is _____.

That the Defendant has departed from the State of Georgia or cannot after due diligence be found within the state. The Defendant's last known address is _____.

The last known residence of the Defendant was outside the State of Georgia at _____ on _____, 20____. The Defendant no longer resides at the foregoing address, nor within the State of Georgia, to the best of Affiant's knowledge, and the present address or whereabouts of the Defendant is unknown to the Affiant.

The affiant has made a diligent effort to locate defendant by:

And cannot find defendant within this state for the reason that defendant has concealed himself by:

Affiant has no knowledge as to the present residence or whereabouts of the defendant.

The affiant has made the following efforts to find the Defendant (check all that apply)

☐ Checking with the Defendant's friends and relatives

Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of everyone plaintiff contacted:

☐ Contacting the Defendant's former landlord

Name, address, & telephone number of former landlord:

☐ Checking telephone information and directories

List which directories you checked:

☐ Attempting to have Defendant served at his/her last known address, which is listed above

☐ Other: _____

Plaintiff *pro se*

[Sign in the presence of a Notary Public]

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

Notary Public

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

_____)	
Plaintiff)	
)	
)	
v.	)	Civil Action No. _____
)	
)	
_____)	
Defendant.		

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

Plaintiff having moved the Court for an order directing service to be made upon defendant _____ in the above-styled action by publication of summons, and it appearing to the Court from the verified Complaint and Affidavit in support of such motion that defendant is a nonresident and that the action is an action in which a defendant may be served by publication pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9- 10-71, it is

ORDERED, that service upon _____ be made by publication as provided by law.

This _____ day of _____, 20_____.

JUDGE, Superior Courts
Eastern Judicial Circuit

Presented by:

Plaintiff *pro se* [Sign here]

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

)	
Plaintiff)	
)	
)	
v.	)	Civil Action No. _____
)	
)	
)	
Defendant.		

NOTICE OF SUMMONS—SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: _____, Defendant Named Above:

You are hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking

_____ [state the relief sought] was filed
against you in said court on _____, 20____, and that by reason of an order for service of
summons by publication entered by the court on _____. 20____ you are hereby
commanded and required to file with the clerk of said court and serve upon _____,
plaintiff, whose address is _____, an answer to the complaint
within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication. If you fail to do so,
judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Witness the Honorable _____, Judge of said Court.

This the _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Clerk of Superior Court

Chatham, County

In the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia

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

DOMESTIC RELATIONS FINANCIAL AFFIDAVIT OF PLAINTIFF

1. AFFIANT'S NAME: _____ Age _____

Spouse's Name: _____ Age _____

Date of Marriage: _____ Date of Separation _____

Names and birth dates of children for whom support is to be determined in this action:

Name	Date of Birth	Resides with
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Names and birth dates of affiant's other children:

Name	Date of Birth	<u>Resides with</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

2. SUMMARY OF AFFIANT'S INCOME AND NEEDS

(a) Gross monthly income (from item 3A) \$ _____

(b) Net monthly income (from item 3C) _____

(c) Average monthly expenses (item 5A) \$ _____

Monthly payments to creditors + _____

Total monthly expenses and payments
to creditors (item 5C) _____

(subsections (d) & (e) deleted)

3. A. AFFIANT'S GROSS MONTHLY INCOME (complete this section or attach Child Support Schedule A)

(All income must be entered based on monthly average regardless of date of receipt.)

Salary or Wages \$ _____
ATTACH COPIES OF 2 MOST RECENT WAGE STATEMENTS

Commissions, Fees, Tips \$ _____

Income from self-employment, partnership, close corporations,
and independent contracts (gross receipts minus ordinary
and necessary expenses required to produce income)
ATTACH SHEET ITEMIZING YOUR CALCULATIONS \$ _____

Rental Income (gross receipts minus ordinary and
necessary expenses required to produce income)
ATTACH SHEET ITEMIZING YOUR CALCULATIONS \$ _____

Bonuses \$ _____

Overtime Payments \$ _____

Severance Pay \$ _____

Recurring Income from Pensions or Retirement Plans \$ _____

Interest and Dividends \$ _____

Trust Income \$ _____

Income from Annuities \$ _____

Capital Gains \$ _____

Social Security Disability or Retirement Benefits \$ _____

Workers' Compensation Benefits \$ _____

Unemployment Benefits \$ _____

Judgments from Personal Injury or Other Civil Cases \$ _____

Gifts (cash or other gifts that can be converted to cash) \$ _____

Prizes/Lottery Winnings \$ _____

Alimony and maintenance from persons not in this case \$ _____

Assets which are used for support of family \$ _____

Fringe Benefits (if significantly reduce living expenses) \$ _____

Any other income (do NOT include means-tested
Public assistance, such as TANF or food stamps) \$ _____

GROSS MONTHLY INCOME \$ _____
(prior section B deleted)

B. Affiant's Net Monthly Income from employment
(deducting only state and federal taxes and FICA) \$ _____

Affiant's pay period (i.e., weekly, monthly, etc.) _____

Number of exemptions claimed _____

4. ASSETS

(If you claim or agree that all or part of an asset is non-marital, indicate the non-marital portion under the appropriate spouse's column and state the amount and the basis: pre-marital, gift, inheritance, source of funds, etc.).

Description	Value	Separate Asset of the Husband	Separate Asset of the Wife	<u>Basis of the Claim</u>
Cash	\$ _____	_____	_____	_____
Stocks, bonds	\$ _____	_____	_____	_____
CD's/Money Market Accounts	\$ _____	_____	_____	_____
Bank Accounts (list each account):				
_____	\$ _____	_____	_____	_____
_____	\$ _____	_____	_____	_____
_____	\$ _____	_____	_____	_____
<u>Retirement Pensions, 401K, IRA, or Profit Sharing</u>	\$ _____	_____	_____	_____
Money owed you:	\$ _____	_____	_____	_____
<u>Tax Refund owed you:</u>	\$ _____	_____	_____	_____

Real Estate:

home: \$ _____

debt owed: \$ _____

other: \$ _____

debt owed: \$ _____

Automobiles/Vehicles:

Vehicle 1: \$ _____

debt owed: \$ _____

Vehicle 2: \$ _____

debt owed: \$ _____

Life Insurance

(net cash value): \$ _____

Furniture/furnishings: \$ _____

Jewelry: \$ _____

Collectibles: \$ _____

Other Assets: \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

Total Assets: \$ _____

5. A. AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENSES

HOUSEHOLD

Mortgage or rent payments \$ _____ Cable TV \$ _____

Property taxes \$ _____ Misc. household and grocery
Items \$ _____

Homeowner/Renter Insurance \$ _____ Meals outside the home \$ _____

Electricity \$ _____ Other \$ _____

Water \$ _____ **AUTOMOBILE**

Garbage and Sewer \$ _____ Gasoline and oil \$ _____

Telephone:		Repairs	\$ _____
<u>residential line:</u>	\$ _____	Auto tags and license	\$ _____
<u>cellular telephone:</u>	\$ _____	Insurance	\$ _____
Gas	\$ _____	<u>OTHER VEHICLES</u>	
		<u>(boats, trailers, RVs, etc.)</u>	
Repairs and maintenance:	\$ _____	<u>Gasoline and oil</u>	\$ _____
Lawn Care	\$ _____	<u>Repairs</u>	\$ _____
Pest Control	\$ _____	<u>Tags and license</u>	\$ _____
		<u>Insurance</u>	\$ _____

CHILDREN'S EXPENSES

Child care <u>(total monthly cost)</u>	\$ _____
School tuition	\$ _____
<u>Tutoring</u>	\$ _____
<u>Private lessons (e.g., music, dance)</u>	\$ _____
School supplies/expenses	\$ _____
Lunch Money	\$ _____
<u>Other Educational Expenses (list)</u>	
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
Allowance	\$ _____
Clothing	\$ _____
Diapers	\$ _____
Medical, dental, prescription <u>(out of pocket/uncovered expenses)</u>	\$ _____
Grooming, hygiene	\$ _____
Gifts <u>from children to others</u>	\$ _____

AFFIANT'S OTHER EXPENSES

Dry cleaning/laundry	\$ _____
Clothing	\$ _____
Medical, dental, <u>prescription</u> <u>(out of pocket/uncovered expenses)</u>	\$ _____
Affiant's gifts (special holidays)	\$ _____
Entertainment	\$ _____
<u>Recreational Expenses (e.g.,</u> <u>fitness)</u>	\$ _____
Vacations	\$ _____
<u>Travel Expenses for Visitation</u>	\$ _____
Publications	\$ _____
Dues, clubs	\$ _____
Religious and charities	\$ _____
<u>Pet expenses</u>	\$ _____
Alimony paid to former spouse	\$ _____
Child support paid <u>for other</u> <u>children</u>	\$ _____
<u>Date of initial order:</u>	_____

Entertainment \$ _____ Other (attach sheet) \$ _____

Activities (including extra-curricular, school, religious, cultural, etc.) \$ _____

Summer Camps \$ _____

OTHER INSURANCE

Health \$ _____

Child(ren)'s portion: \$ _____

Dental \$ _____

Child(ren)'s portion: \$ _____

Vision \$ _____

Child(ren)'s portion: \$ _____

Life \$ _____

Relationship of Beneficiary: _____

Disability \$ _____

Other(specify): \$ _____

TOTAL ABOVE EXPENSES \$

B. PAYMENTS TO CREDITORS

(please check one)

To Whom:	Balance Due	Monthly Payment	Joint	Plaintiff	Defendant

TOTAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS TO CREDITORS: \$ _____

C. TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES:

\$_____

This _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Affiant
[Sign in the presence of a Notary Public]

This _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Notary Public

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.	)	Civil Action No. _____
)	
)	
)	
Defendant.)	

LIS PENDENS NOTICE

To whom it may concern:

The above-styled case has been filed demanding that the following described real property be awarded to the Plaintiff as alimony or as equitable division of property:

This Lis Pendens notice has been filed and recorded as provided by law.

This ____ day of _____, 20____.

Plaintiff *pro se* [Sign here]

Address: _____

Telephone Number(s) _____

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

_____,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.	)	Civil Action No. _____
)	
_____,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

MANDATORY SEMINAR NOTICE

Pursuant to the Order of the Superior Court of the Southern Judicial Circuit, you are hereby notified that you are required to attend and successfully complete a program designed for parents regarding the effects of divorce on minor children, BEFORE you ask the Court to grant the divorce. A seminar schedule, together with fee requirements and locations, can be found in the Clerk of the Superior Court's Office.

Seminar attendance by both parties is mandatory. Failure to complete this seminar in a successful manner will result in appropriate action against you by the Court, including denial of the grant of divorce until the class is completed, or the dismissal of your case.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

)	
Plaintiff,)	
	)	CIVIL ACTION FILE NO.
v.)	
)	
)	
Defendant.)	

FINAL JUDGMENT AND DIVORCE DECREE
WITH MINOR CHILDREN

The above-styled case came before the Court for a final hearing on _____, 20____. The Plaintiff appeared pro se. The Defendant ☐ also appeared [OR] ☐ did not appear.

Upon consideration of this case, and upon evidence submitted as provided by law, it is the judgment of the Court that a total divorce be granted, that is to say, a divorce *a vinculo matrimonii*, between the parties to the above stated case upon legal principles.

It is considered, ordered, and decreed by the Court that the marriage contract heretofore entered into between the parties to this case, from and after this date, be and is set aside and dissolved as fully and effectually as if no such contract had ever been made or entered into.

Plaintiff and Defendant in the future shall be held and considered as separate and distinct persons altogether unconnected by any nuptial union or civil contract whatsoever and both shall have the right to remarry.

The parties ☐ did not sign a settlement agreement OR ☐ the settlement agreement signed by both parties and filed on _____, 20____ is hereby incorporated and made part of this final decree of divorce.

The Plaintiff or Defendant (circle one) ☐ requests a name change and the Court restores the prior maiden name, to wit: _____
year of birth _____ OR the Plaintiff or Defendant ☐ does not request a name change.

THE COURT HEREBY FINDS THAT the parties have _____ minor child(ren) together as issue of this marriage, who are listed below:

Child	Birth Year

THE COURT HEREBY ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:

1. CUSTODY

☐ (a) The _____ shall have sole temporary and permanent custody of the child/children.

☐ (b) The _____ shall have primary physical custody of the minor child/children and the parties shall share joint legal custody. The parties shall consult one another on all issues touching upon the health, medical and dental care, education (religious and secular), vacations, travel, summer activities, upbringing, and welfare of said minor children. However, where the parties cannot agree, the _____ shall be the ultimate decision maker. The parties will use their best efforts to insure that each parent is advised and informed regarding the progress and development of the parties' children.

☐ (c) The parties shall have joint legal and joint physical custody of the minor child/children. The parties shall consult one another on all issues touching upon the health, medical and dental care, education (religious and secular), vacations, travel, summer activities, upbringing, and welfare of said minor children. However, where the parties cannot agree, the _____ shall be the ultimate decision maker. The parties will use their best efforts to insure that each parent is advised and informed regarding the progress and development of the parties' children.

2. VISITATION

☐ (a) The _____ shall have the right of reasonable visitation with the minor children, at any time by mutual consent of the parties. However, if the parties cannot agree then the following provisions apply: See attached "Exhibit A" the standard circuit visitation schedule.

☐ (b) No visitation is ordered at this time.

☐ (c) The parties shall visit as agreed upon in their incorporated settlement agreement.

☐ (d) The _____ shall have visitation with the minor children as follows:

3. OTHER PARENTAL RIGHTS

☐ (a) None of the parental rights listed below in (b) through (c) are ordered at this time.

☐ (b) Addresses and Telephone Numbers: The parties shall provide each other with their current home address and telephone number, as well as any other telephone number to call in case of emergency; they shall also notify each other of any change in the address or telephone number at least 15 days prior to the change.

☐ (c) Telephone Communication: When the child/children are with the other parent, that parent with whom the children are not with shall have open and reasonable rights of telephonic communication with said child at all times within the bounds of good taste and common sense considering the age of the child.

4. CHILD SUPPORT

☐ (a) This issue is not addressed in this Final Judgment, either because the Court lacks personal jurisdiction over the Defendant, or because the parties have not asked the Court to decide the issue of child support.

☐ (b) A previously entered Child Support Order in Case No _____ shall hereby be incorporated and made part of this final decree.

☐ (c) The (Plaintiff or Defendant) _____ shall pay to (Plaintiff or Defendant) _____, for the support of the minor child(ren) the sum of _____ (dollars) (\$_____) weekly/bi-weekly or monthly (circle one) beginning on _____, 20____. Said child support shall continue monthly thereafter until each child reached the age of 18, dies, marries or otherwise become emancipated; except that if a child becomes 18 years old while enrolled in and attending high school on a full time basis, then child support shall continue until the child graduates or reached the age of 20, whichever occurs first. Said payments shall be paid ☐ through the _____ County Clerk of Court along with any and all statutory handling fees OR ☐ directly to the _____ at their home address.

5. HEALTH INSURANCE FOR CHILDREN

☐ (a) This issue is not addressed in this Final Judgment, either because the Court lacks personal jurisdiction over the Defendant, or because the parties have not asked the Court to decide this issue.

☐ (b) The (Plaintiff or Defendant) _____ shall maintain health insurance on the minor child/children. The parties shall split all uncovered health costs 50/50.

6. ALIMONY

☐ (a) This issue is not addressed in this Final Judgment, either because the Court lacks personal jurisdiction over the Defendant, or because the parties have not asked the Court to decide this issue.

☐ (b) The (Plaintiff or Defendant) _____ shall pay to the (Plaintiff or Defendant) _____ as alimony, the sum of _____ Dollars (\$_____) per month, beginning on _____ and

continuing monthly thereafter until ☐ (1) the recipient dies or remarries OR ☐ (2) for a period of _____.

☐ (c) Neither party is entitled to alimony.

7. PROPERTY DIVISION

☐ (a) This issue is not addressed in this Final Judgment, either because the Court lacks personal jurisdiction over the Defendant, or because the parties have not asked the Court to decide this issue.

☐ (b) The parties have already made a division of all marital property, including any real estate, vehicles, household furniture, furnishings, household goods, equipment, bank accounts, and other personal property.

☐ (c) The parties possess various items of marital property, which shall be divided as provided in this Final Judgment. The parties shall transfer possession and title, if necessary, to their property as follows:

PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT

Said property shall be transferred to the party listed above, by or before _____, 20____.

8. DEBT

☐ (a) The parties have no outstanding joint marital debt.

☐ (b) The parties division of debt shall be as agreed upon in their incorporated settlement agreement.

☐ (c) The responsibility for payments of the parties' joint and marital debts shall be as follows:

Creditor	Amount	Responsible Party

The responsible party listed above for each debt shall indemnify and hold the other party harmless for any collections on that debt.

9. OTHER SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Both parties are hereby enjoined and restrained from molesting or harassing the other party.

SO ORDERED, this _____ day of _____, 20____.

JUDGE, Superior Courts
Eastern Judicial Circuit

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION LEGIBLY AND CORRECTLY BELOW.

REQUIRED INFORMATION			
CIVIL ACTION NUMBER		DATE DECREE GRANTED (MONTH, DAY, YEAR)	
COUNTY DECREE GRANTED			
FIRST NAME OF PARTY 1	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME	LAST NAME AT BIRTH
DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY, YEAR)		COUNTY OF RESIDENCE	NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE (FIRST, SECOND, ETC.)
FIRST NAME OF PARTY 2	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME	LAST NAME AT BIRTH
DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY, YEAR)		COUNTY OF RESIDENCE	NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE (FIRST, SECOND, ETC.)
SPECIFY GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE (19-5-3, OCGA)		NUMBER OF CHILDREN LESS THAN 18 AFFECTED BY THIS DECREE	

This above Report may be reproduced by use of a computer. However, the finished Report must be a close reproduction of the original, and prior review and approval must be obtained from the State Registrar before use. (31-10-7, O.C.G.A.)

31-10-22. Record of divorce, dissolutions, and annulments.

(a) A record of each divorce, dissolution of marriage, or annulment granted by any court of competent jurisdiction in this state shall be filed by the clerk of the court with the department and shall be registered if it has been completed and filed in accordance with this Code section. The record shall be prepared by the petitioner or the petitioner's legal representative on a form prescribed and furnished by the state registrar and shall be presented to the clerk of the court with the petition. In all cases, the completed record shall be a prerequisite to the granting of the final decree.

(b) The clerk of the superior court shall complete and forward to the department on or before the tenth day of each calendar month the records of each divorce, dissolution of marriage, or annulment decree granted during the preceding calendar month.