

**YAVAPAI COUNTY**  
**Self-Service Center**

**PETITION TO ESTABLISH NON-PARENT LEGAL DECISION-MAKING**

**WHAT TO DO WITH THE COURT DOCUMENTS  
AFTER I HAVE COMPLETED THEM**

**STEP 1:** Make copies of the following document:

<b>DOCUMENT</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COPIES</b>
* Petition to Establish Non-Parent Legal Decision-Making <b>Including any extra pages of explanations or evidence</b>	<b>3</b> (or more depending on how many people must be served with copies)
* Summons for mother	2
* Summons for father	2
* Parenting Time Plan	2
* Order	2

**THERE MAY BE OTHER PERSONS YOU MUST SERVE WITH COPIES. SEE STEP 3 AND INFORMATION SHEET FOR EXPLANATION.**

**STEP 2:** File the papers at the Court:

**GO TO:** THE SUPERIOR COURT TO FILE YOUR PAPERS. The court is open from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. **You should go to the court at least two hours before it closes. It is recommended that you not bring your children with you.** You may file your court papers at either of the following Superior Court locations:

Clerk of Superior Court  
Yavapai County Courthouse  
120 S. Cortez Street  
Prescott AZ 86303-4737

Clerk of Superior Court  
Yavapai County Superior Court  
2840 N. Commonwealth Drive  
Camp Verde AZ 86322

**FEES:** When you file with the court, there are fees for petitions, responses, requests, motions, objections and various other actions. The court will accept payment in the form of cash, VISA/MasterCard debit or credit cards, money orders, or personal checks made payable to “Clerk of Superior Court”. Personal checks will be accepted with current picture ID. To check out the current fees go online to <https://courts.yavapaiaz.gov/Pay-Fines-Fees/Fee-Schedules> and find the link to the fees schedule on the top of the page, or call the Clerk’s Office in either Prescott at (928) 771-3312, or Camp Verde at (928) 567-7741.

If you cannot afford the filing fee and/or the fee for having the papers served by the Sheriff or by publication, you may request a **deferral or waiver** (delay or completely waive fees and/or costs) when you file your papers with the Clerk of the Court. The **Deferral or Waiver of Court Fees and/or Costs and Consent to Entry of Judgment Application** is available at **no charge** from the Clerk’s Office, though a fee for applying for the deferral will be added to your costs.

**WHAT THE CLERK WILL DO:** The Clerk will file and keep the original Petition and Order and stamp the copies for you also. These are called conformed copies. One copy is for your records; the other are for you to serve on the parent(s) and any other person required by law to be served. **SEE BELOW**

**STEP 3:** Serve the documents on the other party and file Proof of Service with the court. The Service packet is available at the Yavapai County Self-Service Center.

- \* Petition to Establish Non-Parent Legal Decision-Making and any extra pages attached
- \* Summons for mother and father
- \* Parenting Plan

**Arizona law requires service on:**

1. The parent(s);
2. Any other person who has court-ordered legal decision-making or parenting time (visitation) rights;
3. Guardian(s) or guardian(s) ad litem of the child(ren);
4. Any person or agency that is the physical custodian of the child(ren);
5. Any other person or agency that has appeared in the case.

**AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, FILE THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS SHOWING SERVICE ON THE OTHER PARTIES.**

**STEP 4:** Wait for a Response. The Respondent has a certain amount of time to file a Response. The time limits are described in the SERVICE PACKETS. If a Response is filed, use the **RESOLUTION STATEMENT** included in this packet.

**DISCLOSURE AND DISCOVERY.** Parties are generally required to exchange information and documents about the case. For more complete information, see Rules 49-65 of the Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure (ARFLP). If your case proceeds to trial, the Self-Service Center has a PRETRIAL PACKET and WITNESS & EXHIBIT PACKET available.

***Self-represented persons are required to know and follow proper procedures, just like an attorney. The Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure, which are found in the Law Library, contain the rules you are required to follow. No allowance is made for a person who does not understand or is unaware of things that must be done.***

**WARNING!** IF YOU IGNORE A COURT ORDER, FAIL TO ADEQUATELY PREPARE FOR A SCHEDULED CONFERENCE OR HEARING, OR FAIL TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE OR HEARING, THE JUDICIAL OFFICER MAY ORDER SANCTIONS AGAINST YOU, INCLUDING HOLDING YOU IN CONTEMPT OF COURT OR REQUIRING YOU TO PAY THE OTHER PARTY'S ATTORNEY FEES.

**IF YOU DO NOT HEAR FROM THE COURT WITHIN A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME, CONTACT THE COURT TO SEE IF THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE YOU MUST DO.**