

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

IN RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE FLORIDA
FAMILY LAW RULES OF PROCEDURE

CASE NO.:

REPORT OF THE FAMILY LAW RULES COMMITTEE

Larry K. Coleman, Chair, Family Law Rules Committee, and John F. Harkness, Jr., Executive Director, The Florida Bar, file this four-year cycle report with the Court under *Fla.R.Jud.Admin.* 2.130(c).

The committee proposes amendments to the rules and forms as shown on the attached table of contents. The voting record for the committee for each amendment is shown on the table of contents. As required by *Fla.R.Jud.Admin.* 2.130, the amendments have been reviewed by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar. The board's vote on each amendment is also shown on the table of contents. The appendix presents each proposed rule change in two-column format; amendments to forms are shown in full-page format.

The amendments are proposed for the following reasons:

Rule 12.140, Defenses.

This amendment conforms with *Fla. R. Civ. P.* 1.140(c), which is incorporated by reference into the Family Law Rules of Procedure, with section 61.052(2), Florida Statutes, which lists the actions the court may take to dissolve a marriage “[b]ased on evidence at the hearing.” See *Fernandez v. Fernandez*, 648 So. 2d 172 (Fla. 1995).

Rule 12.405, Record of Ex Parte Proceedings.

This new rule requires the reporting or recording of all ex parte hearings. The purpose of this rule is to avoid the appearance of impropriety, uphold the integrity of the judicial system by ensuring that these hearings are recorded, and protect the rights of nonattending parties and other participants. The Committee Note clarifies that the rule does not apply to properly noticed uncontested final hearings for dissolutions of marriage.

Rule 12.490, General Masters.

An injunction for protection against domestic violence may contain provision awarding child or spousal support, determining parental responsibility or visitation, or awarding temporary exclusive use and possession of the marital home. This amendment to the Commentary provides clarification that a general master may conduct a hearing to establish, enforce or modify the financial provisions in a subsequent proceeding. This amendment does not give the general master authority to modify or enforce the protective portions of the injunction.

Rule 12.560, Discovery in Aid of Execution.

Current *Fla. R. Civ. P.* 1.560 is adopted into the Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure in *Fla. Fam. L. R. P.* 12.560. The Civil Procedure Rules Committee is submitting proposed amendments to *Rule* 1.560 to the court for the 2000 rules cycle. The Family Law Rules Committee believes that special considerations in family law cases require changes to the rule as proposed by the Civil Rules Committee. These changes are indicated with highlighting.

Subdivision (b): Failure to obey any discovery order may be considered contempt of court. There does not seem to be any reason to single out this type of violation. Additionally, when this provision is combined with proposed subdivision (e), a judgment debtor's failure to file a notice of compliance may subject him or her to contempt for a technical violation of the rule. This may be particularly likely in pro se cases.

Subdivision (c): The first sentence has been clarified to state that it relates to a judgment awarding money damages, and not to all final judgments. The rule as stated also was ambiguous as to when and how a request for inclusion of this language should be made. Language was added to clarify that its inclusion may not be requested after entry of the final judgment on an ex parte basis.

Subdivision (d): The civil rule as drafted was directed to discovery of the assets of a judgment creditor's present spouse. It did not address the situation when it is the former spouse seeking discovery of the other party's present spouse's assets. As proposed for inclusion in the family law rules, the rule requires the laying of a proper predicate for discovery of the present spouse's assets. It also clarifies that this relief is not available as ex parte relief on a motion to compel

discovery.

Committee Note: Amended to conform to changes proposed for the Rules of Civil Procedure. The second paragraph has been deleted because of the reasons discussed above for amendments to subdivision (b).

Rule 12.610, Injunctions for Domestic and Repeat Violence.

The first amendment to subdivision (c)(1)(A) deletes the provision allowing the court to receive additional testimony at an ex parte hearing. This conforms the rule to section 741.30(5)(b), Florida Statutes, which limits the evidence at the hearing to the verified pleadings or affidavits unless the respondent appears or has received notice, and section 741.30(1)(g), Florida Statutes, which requires that evidence be presented in writing with copies to each party or given under oath at a hearing at which all parties are present.

The second amendment to subdivision (c)(1)(A) provides an additional safeguard if a petition is dismissed for failure to state sufficient facts, by specifying that if a verified petition and affidavit are amended the court shall consider them as if originally filed.

The amendment in subdivision (c)(2)(A) is a spelling correction only.

Form 12.910(a), Summons: Personal Services on an Individual.

This form is submitted to remove a blank line in the second paragraph of the bold-type of the Spanish translation. The blank is not needed.

Forms 12.930(b) and (c), Interrogatories.

An amendment is proposed to item 4.a. of both Standard Family Law Interrogatory forms. The amendment asks that the legal description of real property be provided if the property does not have a street address so that the property may be identified correctly.

The committee respectfully requests that the court adopt these proposed amendments to the Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure.

Respectfully submitted February ____, 2000.

LARRY K. COLEMAN

Chair

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**FLORIDA FAMILY LAW RULES OF PROCEDURE
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RULE 12.140. DEFENSES

Defenses shall be governed by Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.140. However, a hearing is required for all matters included in rule 12.010(a)(1), other than amended or supplementary matters, except when one of the parties has died and the other party has admitted the marriage is irretrievably broken or filed a counterpetition asserting that the marriage is irretrievably broken.

RULE 12.405. RECORD OF EX PARTE PROCEEDINGS

When ex parte hearings are authorized by statute or rule, all such hearings and proceedings in family law matters as defined in rule 12.010(a)(1), shall be reported stenographically or recorded electronically. Costs initially shall be borne by the party bringing the matter before the court, subject to later assessment of court costs. If the hearing is reported stenographically, the name, address, and telephone number of the court reporter shall be filed with the court on the date of the hearing. If recorded, the recording shall be filed with the court on the date of the hearing.

Committee Note

2000 Adoption. This rule does not apply to properly noticed uncontested final dissolution hearings.

RULE 12.490. GENERAL MASTERS

(a) **General Masters.** Judges of the circuit court may appoint as many general masters from among the members of The Florida Bar in the circuit as the judges find necessary, and the general masters shall continue in office until removed by the court. The order making an appointment shall be recorded. Every person appointed as a general master shall take the oath required of officers by the Constitution and the oath shall be recorded before the master discharges any duties of that office.

(b) **Reference.**

(1) No matter shall be heard by a general master without an appropriate order of reference and the consent to the referral of all parties. Consent, as defined in this rule, to a specific referral, once given, cannot be withdrawn without good cause shown before the hearing on the merits of the matter referred. Consent may be express or may be implied in accordance with the requirements of this rule.

(A) A written objection to the referral to a general master must be filed within 10 days of the service of the order of referral.

(B) If the time set for the hearing is less than 10 days after service of the order of referral, the objection must be filed before commencement of the hearing.

(C) If the order of referral is served within the first 20 days after the service of the initial process, the time to file an objection is extended to the time within which to file a responsive pleading.

(D) Failure to file a written objection within the applicable time period is deemed to be consent to the order of referral.

(2) The order of referral shall be in substantial conformity with Family Law Form 12.920(b), and shall contain the following language in bold type:

**A REFERRAL TO A GENERAL MASTER
REQUIRES THE CONSENT OF ALL PARTIES. YOU**

ARE ENTITLED TO HAVE THIS MATTER HEARD BEFORE A JUDGE. IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO HAVE THIS MATTER HEARD BEFORE THE GENERAL MASTER, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE REFERRAL WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE TIME OF SERVICE OF THIS ORDER. IF THE TIME SET FOR THE HEARING IS LESS THAN 10 DAYS AFTER THE SERVICE OF THIS ORDER, THE OBJECTION MUST BE MADE BEFORE THE HEARING. IF THIS ORDER IS SERVED WITHIN THE FIRST 20 DAYS AFTER SERVICE OF PROCESS, THE TIME TO FILE AN OBJECTION IS EXTENDED TO THE TIME WITHIN WHICH A RESPONSIVE PLEADING IS DUE. FAILURE TO FILE A WRITTEN OBJECTION WITHIN THE APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD IS DEEMED TO BE A CONSENT TO THE REFERRAL.

REVIEW OF THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE GENERAL MASTER SHALL BE BY EXCEPTIONS AS PROVIDED IN RULE 12.490(f), FLA. FAM. L. R. P. A RECORD, WHICH INCLUDES A TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS, MAY BE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE EXCEPTIONS.

(3) The order of referral shall state with specificity the matter or matters being referred and the name of the general master to whom the matter is referred. The order of referral also shall state whether electronic recording or a court reporter is provided by the court, or whether a court reporter, if desired, must be provided by the litigants.

(4) When a reference is made to a general master, any party or the general master may set the action for hearing.

(c) **General Powers and Duties.** Every general master shall perform all of the duties that pertain to the office according to the practice in chancery and rules of court and under the direction of the court except those duties related to

domestic and repeat violence. A general master shall be empowered to administer oaths and conduct hearings, which may include the taking of evidence. All grounds for disqualification of a judge shall apply to general masters.

(d) **Hearings.**

(1) The general master shall assign a time and place for proceedings as soon as reasonably possible after the reference is made and give notice to each of the parties either directly or by directing counsel to file and serve a notice of hearing. If any party fails to appear, the general master may proceed ex parte or may adjourn the proceeding to a future day, giving notice to the absent party of the adjournment. The general master shall proceed with reasonable diligence in every reference and with the least delay practicable. Any party may apply to the court for an order to the general master to speed the proceedings and to make the report and to certify to the court the reason for any delay.

(2) The general master shall take testimony and establish a record which may be by electronic means as provided by Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.070(d) or by a court reporter. The parties may not waive this requirement.

(3) The general master shall have authority to examine under oath the parties and all witnesses upon all matters contained in the reference, to require production of all books, papers, writings, vouchers, and other documents applicable to it, and to examine on oath orally all witnesses produced by the parties. The general master may take all actions concerning evidence that can be taken by the circuit court and in the same manner. The general master shall have the same powers as a circuit judge to utilize communications equipment as defined and regulated by Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.071.

(4) The notice or order setting the cause for hearing shall be in substantial conformity with Family Law Form 12.920(c) and shall contain the following language in bold type:

**SHOULD YOU WISH TO SEEK REVIEW OF THE
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE
GENERAL MASTER, YOU MUST FILE
EXCEPTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE**

12.490(f), FLA. FAM. L. R. P. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE COURT WITH A RECORD SUFFICIENT TO SUPPORT YOUR EXCEPTIONS OR YOUR EXCEPTIONS WILL BE DENIED. A RECORD ORDINARILY INCLUDES A WRITTEN TRANSCRIPT OF ALL RELEVANT PROCEEDINGS. THE PERSON SEEKING REVIEW MUST HAVE THE TRANSCRIPT PREPARED IF NECESSARY FOR THE COURT'S REVIEW.

(5) The notice or order setting a matter for hearing shall state whether electronic recording or a court reporter is provided by the court. If the court provides electronic recording, the notice also shall state that any party may provide a court reporter at that party's expense.

(e) **General Master's Report.** The general master shall file a report that includes findings of fact and conclusions of law, together with recommendations. If a court reporter was present, the report shall contain the name and address of the reporter.

(f) **Filing Report; Notice; Exceptions.** The general master shall file the report and recommendations and serve copies on all parties. The parties may serve exceptions to the report within 10 days from the time it is served on them. Any party may file cross-exceptions within 5 days from the service of the exceptions, provided, however, that the filing of cross-exceptions shall not delay the hearing on the exceptions unless good cause is shown. If no exceptions are filed within that period, the court shall take appropriate action on the report. If exceptions are filed, they shall be heard on reasonable notice by either party or the court.

(g) **Record.** For the purpose of the hearing on exceptions, a record, substantially in conformity with this rule, shall be provided to the court by the party seeking review if necessary for the court's review.

(1) The record shall consist of the court file, including the transcript of the relevant proceedings before the general master and all depositions and evidence presented to the general master.

(2) The transcript of all relevant proceedings, if any, shall be

delivered to the judge and provided to all other parties not less than 48 hours before the hearing on exceptions. If less than a full transcript of the proceedings taken before the general master is ordered prepared by the excepting party, that party shall promptly file a notice setting forth the portions of the transcript that have been ordered. The responding parties shall be permitted to designate any additional portions of the transcript necessary to the adjudication of the issues raised in the exceptions or cross-exceptions.

(3) The cost of the original and all copies of the transcript of the proceedings shall be borne initially by the party seeking review, subject to appropriate assessment of suit monies. Should any portion of the transcript be required as a result of a designation filed by the responding party, the party making the designation shall bear the initial cost of the additional transcript.

Commentary

2000 Amendment. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to prevent general masters from subsequently modifying or enforcing the parental responsibility, visitation, child support, and spousal support provisions of injunctions against domestic violence or repeat violence previously issued.

1995 Adoption. This rule is a modification of Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.490. That rule governed the appointment of both general and special masters. The appointment of special masters is now governed by Florida Family Law Rule of Procedure 12.492. This rule is intended to clarify procedures that were required under rule 1.490, and it creates additional procedures. The use of general masters should be implemented only when such use will reduce costs and expedite cases in accordance with *Dralus v. Dralus*, 627 So.2d 505 (Fla. 2d DCA 1993), *Wrona v. Wrona*, 592 So.2d 694 (Fla. 2d DCA 1991), and *Katz v. Katz*, 505 So.2d 25 (Fla. 4th DCA 1987).

RULE 12.560. DISCOVERY IN AID OF EXECUTION

~~Discovery in aid of execution shall be governed by Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.560.~~

(a) **In General.** In aid of a judgment, decree, or execution the judgment creditor or the successor in interest, when the interest appears of record, may obtain discovery from any person, including the judgment debtor, in the manner provided in these rules.

(b) **Fact Information Sheet.** In addition to any other discovery available to a judgment creditor under this rule, the court, at the request of the judgment creditor, shall order the judgment debtor or debtors to complete *Fla. R. Civ. P. Form 1.977*, including all required attachments, within 45 days of the order or such other reasonable time as determined by the court. ~~Failure to obey the order may be considered contempt of court.~~

(c) **Final Judgment Enforcement Paragraph.** In any final judgment ~~which awards money damages~~, the judge shall include the following enforcement paragraph if requested ~~at the final hearing or a subsequently noticed hearing~~ by the prevailing party or attorney:

“It is further ordered and adjudged that the judgment debtor(s) shall complete under oath Florida Rule of Civil Procedure Form 1.977 (Fact Information Sheet), including all required attachments, and serve it on the judgment creditor's attorney, or the judgment creditor if the judgment creditor is not represented by an attorney, within 45 days from the date of this final judgment, unless the final judgment is satisfied or post-judgment discovery is stayed.

“Jurisdiction of this case is retained to enter further orders that are proper to compel the judgment debtor(s) to complete form 1.977, including all required attachments, and serve it on the judgment creditor's attorney, or the judgment creditor if the judgment creditor is not represented by an attorney.”

(d) **Information Regarding Assets of Judgment Debtor's Spouse.** In any final judgment ~~which awards money damages~~, if requested by the judgment creditor ~~at a duly noticed hearing~~, the court shall include ~~require all or part of the~~

additional Spouse Related Portion of the fact information sheet **to be filled out by the judgment debtor only** upon a showing that a proper predicate exists for discovery of separate income and assets of the judgment debtor's spouse.

(e) **Notice of Compliance.** The judgment debtor shall file with the clerk of court a notice of compliance with the order to complete form 1.977, and serve a copy of the notice of compliance on the judgment creditor or the judgment creditor's attorney.

Committee Notes

2000 Amendment. Subdivisions (b)–(e) were added **to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure** and **adopted with amendments into the Family Law Rules of Procedure. The amendments to the Civil Rules were** patterned after Florida Small Claims Rule 7.221(a) and Form 7.343. Although the judgment creditor is entitled to broad discovery into the judgment debtor's finances (Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.280(b); *Jim Appley's Tru-Arc, Inc. v. Liquid Extraction Systems*, 526 So. 2d 177, 179 (Fla. 2d DCA 1988)), **in family law cases** inquiry into the individual assets of the judgment debtor's spouse **may be limited** ~~must be precluded~~ until a proper predicate has been shown. (*Tru-Arc, Inc.* 526 So. 2d at 179; *Rose Printing Co. v. D'Amato*, 338 So. 2d 120 (Fla. 4th DCA 1975).)

~~Failure to complete form 1.977 as ordered may be considered contempt of court.~~

RULE 12.610. INJUNCTIONS FOR DOMESTIC AND REPEAT VIOLENCE

(a) **Application.** This rule shall apply only to temporary and permanent injunctions for protection against domestic violence and temporary and permanent injunctions for protection against repeat violence. All other injunctive relief sought in cases to which the Family Law Rules apply shall be governed by Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.610.

(b) **Petitions.**

(1) **Requirements for Use.**

(A) **Domestic Violence.** Any person may file a petition for an injunction for protection against domestic violence if they certify under oath that

(i) the party filing the injunction and the party against whom the injunction is sought are spouses, former spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are presently residing together as if a family or who have resided together in the past as if a family, or persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have resided together at any time;

(ii) the party filing the petition was the victim of, or has reasonable cause to believe he or she is in imminent danger of becoming the victim of an assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death perpetrated by the party against whom the injunction is sought; and

(iii) the specific facts and circumstances upon the basis of which relief is sought are true.

(B) **Repeat Violence.** Any person may file a petition for an injunction for protection against repeat violence if they certify under oath that

(i) two incidents of violence, defined as any assault, battery, sexual battery, or stalking, one of which must have occurred within 6

months of the filing of the petition, have been committed by the person against whom the injunction is sought against the petitioner or the petitioner's immediate family member; and

(ii) the specific facts and circumstances upon the basis of which relief is sought are true.

(2) **Service of Petitions.**

(A) **Domestic Violence.** Personal service by a law enforcement agency is required. The clerk of the court shall furnish a copy of the petition for an injunction for protection against domestic violence, financial affidavit (if support is sought), Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act affidavit (if custody is sought), temporary injunction (if one has been entered), and notice of hearing to the appropriate sheriff or law enforcement agency of the county where the respondent resides or can be found for expeditious service of process.

(B) **Repeat Violence.** Personal service by a law enforcement agency is required. The clerk of the court shall furnish a copy of the petition for an injunction for protection against repeat violence, temporary injunction (if one has been entered), and notice of hearing to the appropriate sheriff or law enforcement agency of the county where the respondent resides or can be found for expeditious service of process.

(C) **Additional Documents.** Service of pleadings in cases of domestic or repeat violence other than petitions, supplemental petitions, and orders granting injunctions shall be governed by rule 12.080, except that service of a motion to modify or vacate an injunction should be by notice that is reasonably calculated to apprise the nonmoving party of the pendency of the proceedings.

(3) **Consideration by Court.** Upon the filing of a petition, the court shall set a hearing to be held at the earliest possible time. A denial of a petition for an ex parte injunction shall be by written order noting the legal grounds for denial. When the only ground for denial is no appearance of an immediate and present danger of domestic violence, the court shall set a full hearing on the petition for injunction with notice at the earliest possible time. Nothing herein affects a petitioner's right to promptly amend any petition, or otherwise be heard in person on any petition consistent with these rules.

(4) **Forms.**

(A) **Provision of Forms.** The clerk of the court or family or domestic/repeat violence intake personnel shall provide simplified forms, including instructions for completion, for any person whose circumstances meet the requirements of this rule and shall assist the petitioner in obtaining an injunction for protection against domestic or repeat violence as provided by law.

(B) **Confidential Filing of Address.** A petitioner's address may be furnished to the court in a confidential filing separate from a petition or other form if, for safety reasons, a petitioner believes that the address should be concealed. The ultimate determination of a need for confidentiality must be made by the court as provided in Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.051.

(c) **Orders of Injunction.**

(1) **Consideration by Court.**

(A) **Temporary Injunction.** For the injunction for protection to be issued ex parte, it must appear to the court that an immediate and present danger of domestic or repeat violence exists. In an ex parte hearing for the purpose of obtaining an ex parte temporary injunction, the court may limit the evidence to the verified pleadings or affidavits ~~or may receive additional testimony under oath if necessary~~ for a determination of whether an immediate and present there is an imminent danger that the petitioner will become a victim of domestic or repeat violence exists. If the respondent appears at the hearing or has received reasonable notice of the hearing, the court may hold a hearing on the petition. If a verified petition and affidavit are amended, the court shall consider the amendments as if originally filed.

(B) **Permanent Injunction.** A full evidentiary hearing shall be conducted.

(2) **Issuing of Injunction.**

(A) **Standardized Forms.** The temporary and permanent injunction forms in these rules for repeat and domestic violence injunctions shall be the forms used in the issuance of injunctions under chapters 741 and 784, Florida

Statutes. Additional provisions, not inconsistent with the standardized portions of those forms, may be added to the special provisions section of the temporary and permanent injunction forms on the written approval of the chief judge of the circuit. Copies of such additional provisions shall be sent to the Chief Justice, the chair of the Family Law Rules Committee of The Florida Bar, the chair of the Family Courts Steering Committee, and the chair of The Governor's Task Force on Domestic and Sexual Violence.

(B) **Bond.** No bond shall be required by the court for the entry of an injunction for protection against domestic or repeat violence. The clerk of the court shall provide the parties with sufficient certified copies of the order of injunction for service.

(3) **Service of Injunctions.**

(A) **Temporary Injunction.** A temporary injunction for protection against domestic or repeat violence must be personally served. When the respondent has been served previously with the temporary injunction and has failed to appear at the initial hearing on the temporary injunction, any subsequent pleadings seeking an extension of time may be served on the respondent by the clerk of the court by certified mail in lieu of personal service by a law enforcement officer. If the temporary injunction was issued after a hearing because the respondent was present at the hearing or had reasonable notice of the hearing, the injunction may be served in the manner provided for a permanent injunction.

(B) **Permanent Injunction.**

(i) **Party Present at Hearing.** The parties may acknowledge receipt of the permanent injunction for protection against domestic or repeat violence in writing on the face of the original order. If a party is present at the hearing and that party fails or refuses to acknowledge the receipt of a certified copy of the injunction, the clerk shall cause the order to be served by mailing certified copies of the injunction to the parties who were present at hearing at the last known address of each party. Service by mail is complete upon mailing. When an order is served pursuant to this subdivision, the clerk shall prepare a written certification to be placed in the court file specifying the time, date, and method of service and within 24 hours shall forward a copy of the injunction and the clerk's affidavit of service to the sheriff with jurisdiction over the residence of the petitioner. This

procedure applies to service of orders to modify or vacate injunctions for protection against domestic or repeat violence.

(ii) **Party not Present at Hearing.** Within 24 hours after the court issues, continues, modifies, or vacates an injunction for protection against domestic or repeat violence, the clerk shall forward a copy of the injunction to the sheriff with jurisdiction over the residence of the petitioner for service.

(4) **Duration.**

(A) **Temporary Injunction.** Any temporary injunction shall be effective for a fixed period not to exceed 15 days. A full hearing shall be set for a date no later than the date when the temporary injunction ceases to be effective. The court may grant a continuance of the temporary injunction and of the full hearing for good cause shown by any party, or upon its own motion for good cause, including failure to obtain service.

(B) **Permanent Injunction.** Any relief granted by an injunction for protection against domestic or repeat violence shall be granted for a fixed period or until further order of court. Such relief may be granted in addition to other civil and criminal remedies. Upon petition of the victim, the court may extend the injunction for successive periods or until further order of court. Broad discretion resides with the court to grant an extension after considering the circumstances. No specific allegations are required.

(5) **Enforcement.** The court may enforce violations of an injunction for protection against domestic or repeat violence in civil contempt proceedings, which are governed by rule 12.570, or in criminal contempt proceedings, which are governed by Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.840, or, if the violation meets the statutory criteria, it may be prosecuted as a crime under Florida Statutes.

(6) **Motion to Modify or Vacate Injunction.** The petitioner or respondent may move the court to modify or vacate an injunction at any time. Service of a motion to modify or vacate injunctions shall be governed by subdivision 12.610(b)(2) of this rule. However, for service of a motion to modify to be sufficient if a party is not represented by an attorney, service must be in accord with rule 12.070, or in the alternative, there must be filed in the record proof of

receipt of this motion by the nonmoving party personally.

(7) **Forms.** The clerk of the court or family or domestic/repeat violence intake personnel shall provide simplified forms, including instructions for completion, for the persons whose circumstances meet the requirements of this rule and shall assist in the preparation of the affidavit in support of the violation of an order of injunction for protection against domestic or repeat violence.

Commentary

1995 Adoption. A cause of action for an injunction for protection against domestic violence and repeat violence has been created by section 741.30, Florida Statutes (Supp.1994) (modified by chapter 95-195, Laws of Florida), and section 784.046, Florida Statutes (Supp. 1994), respectively. This rule implements those provisions and is intended to be consistent with the procedures set out in those provisions except as indicated in this commentary. To the extent a domestic or repeat violence matter becomes criminal or is to be enforced by direct or indirect criminal contempt, the appropriate Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure will apply.

The facts and circumstances to be alleged under subdivision 12.610(b)(1)(A) include those set forth in Florida Family Law Form 12.980(b). An injunction for protection against domestic or repeat violence may be sought whether or not any other cause of action is currently pending between the parties. However, the pendency of any such cause of action must be alleged in the petition. The relief the court may grant in a temporary or permanent injunction against domestic violence is set forth in section 741.30(6).

The facts and circumstances to be alleged under subdivision (b)(1)(B) include those set forth in Florida Family Law Form 12.980(d). The relief the court may grant in a temporary or permanent injunction against repeat violence is set forth in section 784.046(7), Florida Statutes.

Subdivision (b)(4) expands sections 741.30(2)(c)1 and (2)(c)2, Florida Statutes, to provide that the responsibility to assist the petitioner may be assigned not only to the clerk of court but also to the appropriate intake unit of the court. Family Law Form 12.980(b) provides the form for a petition for injunction against domestic violence. If the custody of a child is at issue, a Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act affidavit must be provided and completed in conformity with

Family Law Form 12.901(f). If alimony or child support is sought a Financial Affidavit must be provided and completed in conformity with Family Law Form 12.901(d) or 12.901(e).

Subdivision (c)(1)(A) expands chapter 95-195, Laws of Florida, and section 784.046(6)(a), Florida Statutes, to make the limitation of evidence presented at an ex parte hearing permissive rather than mandatory given the due process concerns raised by the statutory restrictions on the taking of evidence.

Unlike traditional injunctions, under subdivision (c)(2), no bond will be required for the issuance of injunctions for protection against domestic or repeat violence. This provision is consistent with the statutes except that, unlike the statutes, it does not set a precise number of copies to be provided for service.

Subdivision (c)(3)(A) makes the procedure for service of a temporary order of injunction for protection against domestic violence and repeat violence consistent. This is intended to replace the differing requirements contained in sections 741.30(7)(b)3 and (7)(c)1 and 784.046(8)(a)1, Florida Statutes.

Subdivision (c)(3)(B) makes the procedure for service of a permanent order of injunction for protection against domestic violence and repeat violence consistent. This is intended to replace the differing requirements contained in sections 741.30(7)(a)3 and (7)(c)1 and 784.046(8)(c)1, Florida Statutes, and to specifically clarify that service of the permanent injunction by mail is only effective upon a party who is present at the hearing which resulted in the issuance of the injunction.

Subdivision (c)(4)(A) restates sections 741.30(5)(c) and 784.046(6)(c), Florida Statutes, with some expansion. This subdivision allows the court upon its own motion to extend the protection of the temporary injunction for protection against domestic or repeat violence for good cause shown, which shall include, but not be limited to, failure to obtain service. This subdivision also makes the procedures in cases of domestic and repeat violence identical, resolving the inconsistencies in the statutes.

Subdivision (c)(4)(B) makes the procedures in cases of domestic and repeat violence identical, resolving inconsistencies in the statutes. As stated in section 741.30(1)(c), Florida Statutes, in the event a subsequent cause of action is filed

under chapter 61, Florida Statutes, any orders entered therein shall take precedence over any inconsistent provisions of an injunction for protection against domestic violence which addresses matters governed by chapter 61, Florida Statutes.

Subdivision (c)(5) implements a number of statutes governing enforcement of injunctions against domestic or repeat violence. It is intended by these rules that procedures in cases of domestic and repeat violence be identical to resolve inconsistencies in the statutes. As such, the procedures set out in section 741.31(1), Florida Statutes, are to be followed for violations of injunctions for protection of both domestic and repeat violence. Pursuant to that statute, the petitioner may contact the clerk of the circuit court of the county in which the violation is alleged to have occurred to obtain information regarding enforcement.

Subdivision (c)(7) expands sections 741.30(2)(c)1 and (2)(c)2, Florida Statutes, to provide that the responsibility to assist a petitioner may not only be assigned to the clerk of court but also to the appropriate intake unit of the court. This subdivision makes the procedures in cases of domestic and cases of repeat violence identical to resolve inconsistencies in the statutes.

Committee Note

1997 Amendment. This change mandates use of the injunction forms provided with these rules to give law enforcement a standardized form to assist in enforcement of injunctions. In order to address local concerns, circuits may add special provisions not inconsistent with the mandatory portions.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____

Division: _____

_____,
Petitioner,

and

_____,
Respondent.

**SUMMONS: PERSONAL SERVICE ON AN INDIVIDUAL
ORDEN DE COMPARECENCIA: SERVICIO PERSONAL EN UN
INDIVIDUO**

CITATION: L'ASSIGNATION PERSONAL SUR UN INDIVIDUEL

TO/PARA/A: *{enter other party's full legal name}* _____,
{address(including city and state)/location for service} _____.

IMPORTANT

A lawsuit has been filed against you. You have **20 calendar days** after this summons is served on you to file a written response to the attached complaint/petition with the clerk of this circuit court, located at: *{street address}* _____. A phone call will not protect you. Your written response, including the case number given above and the names of the parties, must be **filed** if you want the Court to hear your side of the case.

If you do not file your written response on time, you may lose the case, and your wages, money, and property may be taken thereafter without further warning from the Court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may call an attorney referral service or a legal aid office (listed in the phone book).

If you choose to file a written response yourself, at the same time you file

your written response to the Court, you must also mail or take a copy of your written response to the party serving this summons at:

{Name and address of party serving summons} _____

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents, upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Notice of Current Address, O" Florida Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed to the address on record at the clerk's office.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

IMPORTANTE

Usted ha sido demandado legalmente. Tiene veinte (20) dias, contados a partir del recibo de esta notificacion, para contestar la demanda adjunta, por escrito, y presentarla ante este tribunal. Localizado en: _____
_____. Una llamada telefonica no lo protegera. Si usted desea que el tribunal considere su defensa, debe presentar su respuesta por escrito, incluyendo el numero del caso y los nombres de las partes interesadas. Si usted no contesta la demanda a tiempo, podiese perder el caso y podria ser despojado de sus ingresos y propiedades, o privado de sus derechos, sin previo aviso del tribunal. Existen otros requisitos legales. Si lo desea, usted puede consultar a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a una de las oficinas de asistencia legal que aparecen en la guia telefonica.

Si desea responder a la demanda por su cuenta, al mismo tiempo en que presente su respuesta ante el tribunal, usted debe enviar por correo o entregar una copia de su respuesta a la persona denominada abajo.

Si usted elige presentar personalmente una respuesta por escrito, en el mismo momento que usted presente su respuesta por escrito al Tribunal, usted debe enviar

por correo o llevar una copia de su respuesta por escrito a la parte entregando esta orden de comparecencia a:

Nombre y direccion de la parte que entrega la orden de comparecencia: _____

Copias de todos los documentos judiciales de este caso, incluyendo las ordenes, estan disponibles en la oficina del Secretario de Juzgado del Circuito [Clerk of the Circuit Court's office]. Estos documentos pueden ser revisados a su solicitud.

Usted debe de manener informada a la oficina del Secretario de Juzgado del Circuito de su direccion actual. (Usted puede presentar _____ el Formulario: Ley de Familia de la Florida 12.915, [O" Florida Family Law Form 12.915], Notificacion de la Direccion Actual [Notice of Current Address].) Los papeles que se presenten en el futuro en esta demanda judicial seran env ados por correo a la direccion que este registrada en la oficina del Secretario.

ADVERTENCIA: Regla 12.285 (Rule 12.285), de las Reglas de Procedimiento de Ley de Familia de la Florida [Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure], requiere cierta revelacion automatica de documentos e informacion. El incumpliment, puede resultar en sanciones, incluyendo la desestimacion o anulacion de los alegatos.

IMPORTANT

Des poursuites judiciaires ont ete entreprises contre vous. Vous avez 20 jours consecutifs a partir de la date de l'assignation de cette citation pour déposer une reponse ecrite a la plainte ci-jointe aupres de ce tribunal. Qui se trouve a: {L'Adresse} _____. Un simple coup de telephone est insuffisant pour vous proteger; vous etes obliges de déposer votre reponse ecrite, avec mention du numero de dossier ci-dessus et du nom des parties nommees ici, si vous souhaitez que le tribunal entende votre cause. Si vous ne deposez pas votre reponse ecrite dans le delai requis, vous risquez de perdre la cause ainsi que votre salaire, votre argent, et vos biens peuvent etre saisis par la suite, sans aucun preavis ulterieur du tribunal. Il y a d'autres obligations juridiques et vous pouvez requerir les services immediats d'un avocat. Si vous ne connaissez pas d'avocat, vous pourriez telephoner a un service de reference d'avocats ou a un bureau d'assistance juridique (figurant a l'annuaire de telephones).

Si vous choisissez de déposer vous-même une réponse écrite, il vous faudra également, en même temps que cette formalité, faire parvenir ou expédier une copie au carbone ou une photocopie de votre réponse écrite à la partie qui vous dépose cette citation.

Nom et adresse de la partie qui dépose cette citation: _____

Les photocopies de tous les documents tribunaux de cette cause, y compris des arrêts, sont disponibles au bureau du greffier. Vous pouvez revue ces documents, sur demande.

Il faut aviser le greffier de votre adresse actuelle. (Vous pouvez déposer ○" Florida Family Law Form 12.915, Notice of Current Address.) Les documents de l'avenir de ce procès seront envoyés à l'adresse que vous donnez au bureau du greffier.

ATTENTION: La règle 12.285 des règles de procédure du droit de la famille de la Floride exige que l'on remette certains renseignements et certains documents à la partie adverse. Tout refus de les fournir pourra donner lieu à des sanctions, y compris le rejet ou la suppression d'un ou de plusieurs actes de procédure.

THE STATE OF FLORIDA
TO EACH SHERIFF OF THE STATE: You are commanded to serve this summons and a copy of the complaint in this lawsuit on the above-named person.

DATED: _____

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

(SEAL)

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____
Division: _____

_____,
Petitioner,

and

_____,
Respondent.

**STANDARD FAMILY LAW INTERROGATORIES
FOR ORIGINAL OR ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS**

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PARTY SERVING THESE
INTERROGATORIES**

I am requesting that the following standard questions be answered: [/ all that apply]

_____ 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7

Form Background Education Employment Assets Liabilities Miscellaneous Long
Information Affidavit

In addition, I am requesting that the attached {#} _____ questions be answered.

The answers to the following questions are intended to supplement the information provided in the Financial Affidavits, O" Florida Family Law Forms 12.901(d) or (e). You should answer the group of questions indicated in the above shaded box. The questions should be answered in the blank space provided below each separately numbered question. If sufficient space is not provided, you may attach additional papers with the answers and refer to them in the space provided in the interrogatories. You should be sure to make a copy for yourself. Each question must be answered separately and as completely as the available information permits. All answers are to be made under oath or affirmation as to their

truthfulness.

I, *{name of person answering interrogatories}* _____,
being sworn, certify that the following information is true:

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- a. State your full legal name and any other name by which you have been known.
- b. State your present residence and telephone numbers.
- c. State your place and date of birth.

2. EDUCATION:

- a. List all business, commercial, and professional licenses that you have obtained.
- b. List all of your education including, but not limited to, vocational or specialized training, including the following:
 - (1) name and address of each educational institution.
 - (2) dates of attendance.
 - (3) degrees or certificates obtained or anticipated dates of same.

3. EMPLOYMENT:

- a. For each place of your employment or self-employment during the last 3 years, state the following:
 - (1) name, address, and telephone number of your employer.
 - (2) dates of employment.
 - (3) job title and brief description of job duties.
 - (4) starting and ending salaries.
 - (5) name of your direct supervisor.
 - (6) all benefits received, including, for example, health, life, and disability insurance; expense account; use of automobile or automobile expense reimbursement; reimbursement for travel, food, or lodging expenses; payment of dues in any clubs or associations; and pension or profit sharing plans.

b. Other than as an employee, if you have been engaged in or associated with any business, commercial, or professional activity within the last 3 years that was not detailed above, state for each such activity the following:

- (1) name, address, and telephone number of each activity.
- (2) dates you were connected with such activity.
- (3) position title and brief description of activities.
- (4) starting and ending compensation.
- (5) name of all persons involved in the business, commercial, or professional activity with you.
- (6) all benefits and compensation received, including, for example, health, life, and disability insurance; expense account; use of automobile or automobile expense reimbursement; reimbursement for travel, food, or lodging expenses; payment of dues in any clubs or associations; and pension or profit sharing plans.

c. If you have been unemployed at any time during the last 3 years, state the dates of unemployment. If you have not been employed at any time in the last 3 years, give the information requested above in question 3.a for your last period of employment.

4. **ASSETS:**

a. **Real Estate.** State the street address, if any, and if not, the legal description of all real property that you own or owned during the last 3 years. For each property, state the following:

- (1) the names and addresses of any other persons or entities holding any interest and their percentage of interest.
- (2) the purchase price, the cost of any improvements made since it was purchased, and the amount of any depreciation taken.
- (3) the fair market value on the date of your separation from your spouse.
- (4) the fair market value on the date of the filing of the petition for dissolution of marriage.

b. **Tangible Personal Property.** List all items of tangible personal property that are owned by you or in which you have had any interest during

the last 3 years including, but not limited to, motor vehicles, tools, furniture, boats, jewelry, art objects or other collections, and collectibles whose fair market value exceeds \$100. For each item, state the following:

- (1) the percentage and type interest you hold.
- (2) the names and addresses of any other persons or entities holding any interest.
- (3) the date you acquired your interest.
- (4) the purchase price.
- (5) the present fair market value.
- (6) the fair market value on the date of your separation from your spouse.
- (7) the fair market value on the date of the filing of the petition for dissolution of marriage.

c. Intangible Personal Property. Other than the financial accounts (checking, savings, money market, credit union accounts, or other such cash management accounts) listed in the answer to interrogatory 4.d below, list all items of intangible personal property that are owned by you or in which you have had any ownership interest (including closed accounts) within the last 3 years, including but not limited to, partnership and business interests (including good will), stocks, stock funds, mutual funds, bonds, bond funds, real estate investment trust, receivables, certificates of deposit, notes, mortgages, and debts owed to you by another entity or person. For each item, state the following:

- (1) the percentage and type interest you hold.
- (2) the names and addresses of any other persons or entities holding any interest and the names and addresses of the persons and entities who are indebted to you.
- (3) the date you acquired your interest.
- (4) the purchase price, acquisition cost, or loaned amount.
- (5) the fair market value or the amounts you claim are owned by or owed to you:
 - (a) presently, at the time of answering these interrogatories.
 - (b) on the date of your separation from your spouse.
 - (c) on the date of the filing of the petition for dissolution of

marriage.

You may comply with this interrogatory (4.c) by providing copies of all periodic (monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual) account statements for each such account for the preceding 3 years. However, if the date of acquisition, the purchase price and the market valuations are not clearly reflected in the periodic statements which are furnished then these questions must be answered separately. You do not have to resubmit any periodic statements previously furnished under rule 12.285 (Mandatory Disclosure).

d. **Financial Accounts.** For all financial accounts (checking, savings, money market, credit union accounts, or other such cash management accounts) listed in your Financial Affidavit, in which you have had any legal or equitable interest, regardless of whether the interest is or was held in your own name individually, in your name with another person, or in any other name, give the following:

- (1) name and address of each institution.
- (2) name in which the account is or was maintained.
- (3) account numbers.
- (4) name of each person authorized to make withdrawals from the accounts.
- (5) highest balance within each of the preceding 3 years.
- (6) lowest balance within each of the preceding 3 years.

You may comply with this interrogatory (4.d) by providing copies of all periodic (monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual) account statements for each such account for the preceding 3 years. You do not have to resubmit account statements previously furnished pursuant to rule 12.285 (Mandatory Disclosure).

e. **Closed Financial Accounts.** For all financial accounts (checking, savings, money market, credit union accounts, or other such cash management accounts) closed within the last 3 years, in which you have had any legal or equitable interest, regardless of whether the interest is or was

held in your own name individually, in your name with another person, or in any other name, give the following:

- (1) name and address of each institution.
- (2) name in which the account is or was maintained.
- (3) account numbers.
- (4) name of each person authorized to make withdrawals from the accounts.
- (5) date account was closed.

f. **Trust.** For any interest in an estate, trust, insurance policy, or annuity, state the following:

- (1) If you are the beneficiary of any estate, trust, insurance policy, or annuity, give for each one the following:
 - (a) identification of the estate, trust, insurance policy, or annuity.
 - (b) the nature, amount, and frequency of any distributions of benefits.
 - (c) the total value of the beneficiaries' interest in the benefit.
 - (d) whether the benefit is vested or contingent.
- (2) If you have established any trust or are the trustee of a trust, state the following:
 - (a) the date the trust was established.
 - (b) the names and addresses of the trustees.
 - (c) the names and addresses of the beneficiaries.
 - (d) the names and addresses of the persons or entities who possess the trust documents.
 - (e) each asset that is held in each trust, with its fair market value.

g. **Canceled Life Insurance Policies.** For all policies of life insurance within the preceding 3 years that you no longer hold, own, or have any interest in, state the following:

- (1) name of company that issued the policy and policy number.
- (2) name, address, and telephone number of agent who issued the

policy.

- (3) amount of coverage.
- (4) name of insured.
- (5) name of owner of policy.
- (6) name of beneficiaries.
- (7) premium amount.
- (8) date the policy was surrendered.
- (9) amount, if any, of monies distributed to the owner.

h. Name of Accountant, Bookkeeper, or Records Keeper. State the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of your accountant, bookkeeper, and any other persons who possess your financial records, and state which records each possesses.

i. Safe Deposit Boxes, Lock Boxes, Vaults, Etc. For all safe deposit boxes, lock boxes, vaults, or similar types of depositories, state the following:

- (1) The names and addresses of all banks, depositories, or other places where, at any time during the period beginning 3 years before the initiation of the action, until the date of your answering this interrogatory, you did any of the following:
 - (a) had a safe deposit box, lock box, or vault.
 - (b) were a signatory or co-signatory on a safe deposit box, lock box, or vault.
 - (c) had access to a safe deposit box, lock box, or vault.
 - (d) maintained property.
- (2) The box or identification numbers and the name and address of each person who has had access to any such depository during the same time period.
- (3) All persons who have possession of the keys or combination to the safe deposit box, lock box, or vault.
- (4) Any items removed from any safe deposit boxes, lock boxes, vaults, or similar types of depositories by you or your agent during that time, together with the present location and fair market value of each item.

(5) All items in any safe deposit boxes, lock boxes, vaults, or similar types of depositories and fair market value of each item.

5. **LIABILITIES:**

a. **Loans, Liabilities, Debts, and Other Obligations.** For all loans, liabilities, debts, and other obligations (other than credit cards and charge accounts) listed in your Financial Affidavit, indicate for each the following:

- (1) name and address of the creditor.
- (2) name in which the obligation is or was incurred.
- (3) loan or account number, if any.
- (4) nature of the security, if any.
- (5) payment schedule.
- (6) present balance and current status of your payments.
- (7) total amount of arrearage, if any.
- (8) balance on the date of your separation from your spouse.
- (9) balance on the date of the filing of the petition for dissolution of marriage.

You may comply with this interrogatory (5.a) by providing copies of all periodic (monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual) account statements for each such account for the preceding 3 years. You do not have to resubmit account statements previously furnished under rule 12.285 (Mandatory Disclosure).

b. **Credit Cards and Charge Accounts.** For all financial accounts (credit cards, charge accounts, or other such accounts) listed in your Financial Affidavit, in which you have had any legal or equitable interest, regardless of whether the interest is or was held in your own name individually, in your name with another person, or in any other name, give the following:

- (1) name and address of the creditor.
- (2) name in which the account is or was maintained.
- (3) names of each person authorized to sign on the accounts.
- (4) account numbers.
- (5) present balance and current status of your payments.

- (6) total amount of arrearage, if any.
- (7) balance on the date of your separation from your spouse.
- (8) balance on the date of the filing of the petition for dissolution of marriage.
- (9) highest and lowest balance within each of the preceding 3 years.

You may comply with this interrogatory (5.b) by providing copies of all periodic (monthly quarterly, semi-annual, or annual) account statements for each such account for the preceding 3 years. You do not have to resubmit account statements previously furnished under rule 12.285 (Mandatory Disclosure).

c. Closed Credit Cards and Charge Accounts. For all financial accounts (credit cards, charge accounts, or other such accounts) closed with no remaining balance, within the last 3 years, in which you have had any legal or equitable interest, regardless of whether the interest is or was held in your own name individually, in your name with another person, or in any other name, give the following:

- (1) name and address of each creditor.
- (2) name in which the account is or was maintained.
- (3) account numbers.
- (4) names of each person authorized to sign on the accounts.
- (5) date the balance was paid off.
- (6) amount of final balance paid off.

You may comply with this interrogatory (5.c) by providing copies of all periodic (monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual) account statements for each such account for the preceding 3 years. You do not have to resubmit account statements previously furnished under rule 12.285 (Mandatory Disclosure).

6. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. If you are claiming a special equity in any assets, list the asset, the amount

claimed as special equity, and all facts upon which you rely in your claim.

b. If you are claiming an asset or liability is nonmarital, list the asset or liability and all facts upon which you rely in your claim.

c. If the mental or physical condition of a spouse or child is an issue, identify the person and state the name and address of all health care providers involved in the treatment of that person for said mental or physical condition.

d. If custody of minor children is an issue, state why, and the facts that support your contention that you should be the primary residential parent or have sole parental responsibility of the child(ren).

7. **LONG FORM AFFIDAVIT:** If you filed the short form affidavit, Form 12.901(d), and you were specifically requested in the Notice of Service of Standard Family Law Interrogatories to file the Long Form Affidavit, Form 12.901(e), you must do so within the time to serve the answers to these interrogatories.

I certify that a copy of this document was [/ **one only**] () mailed () faxed and mailed () hand delivered to the person(s) listed below on {date} ____.

Other party or his/her attorney:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Fax Number: _____

I understand that I am swearing or affirming under oath to the truthfulness of the answers to these interrogatories and that the punishment for knowingly making a false statement includes fines and/or imprisonment.

Dated: _____

Signature of Party

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Fax Number: _____

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to or affirmed and signed before me on _____ by _____.

NOTARY PUBLIC—STATE OF
FLORIDA

[Print, type, or stamp commissioned name
of notary.]

_____ Personally known
_____ Produced identification
Type of identification produced _____

**IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE
MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW: [N fill in **all** blanks]**

I, *{full legal name and trade name of nonlawyer}* _____,
a nonlawyer, located at *{street}* _____, *{city}* _____,
{state} _____, *{phone}* _____, helped *{name}* _____,
who is the [/ **one** only] ___ petitioner **or** ___ respondent, fill out this form.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____

Division: _____

_____,
Petitioner

and

_____,
Respondent.

**STANDARD FAMILY LAW INTERROGATORIES
FOR MODIFICATION PROCEEDINGS**

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PARTY SERVING THESE
INTERROGATORIES**

I am requesting that the following standard questions be answered: [/ **all** that apply]

____ 1 ____ 2 ____ 3 ____ 4 ____ 5 ____ 6 ____ 7

Background Education Employment Assets Liabilities Miscellaneous Long
Form Information Affidavit

In addition, I am requesting that the attached {#} ____ questions be answered.

The answers to the following questions are intended to supplement the information provided in the Financial Affidavits, **O** Florida Family Law Forms 12.901(d) or (e). You should answer the group of questions indicated in the above shaded box. The questions should be answered in the blank space provided below each separately numbered question. If sufficient space is not provided, you may attach additional papers with the answers and refer to them in the space provided in the interrogatories. You should be sure to make a copy for yourself. Each question must be answered separately and as completely as the available information permits. All answers are to be made under oath or affirmation as to their truthfulness.

I, *{name of person answering interrogatories}* _____,
being sworn, certify that the following information is true:

1. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

- a. State your full legal name and any other name by which you have been known.
- b. State your present residence and telephone numbers.
- c. State your place and date of birth.

2. **EDUCATION:**

- a. List all business, commercial, and professional licenses that you have obtained since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified.
- b. List all of your education since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified including, but not limited to, vocational or specialized training, including the following:
 - (1) name and address of each educational institution.
 - (2) dates of attendance.
 - (3) degrees or certificates obtained or anticipated dates of same.

3. **EMPLOYMENT:**

- a. For each place of your employment or self-employment since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified, state the following:
 - (1) name, address, and telephone number of your employer.
 - (2) dates of employment.
 - (3) job title and brief description of job duties.
 - (4) starting and ending salaries.
 - (5) name of your direct supervisor.
 - (6) all benefits received, including, for example, health, life, and disability insurance; expense account; use of automobile or automobile expense reimbursement; reimbursement for travel, food, or lodging expenses; payment of dues in any clubs or associations; and pension or profit sharing plans.

- b. Other than as an employee, if you have been engaged in or associated with

any business, commercial, or professional activity since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified that was not detailed above, state for each such activity the following:

- (1) name, address, and telephone number of each activity.
- (2) dates you were connected with such activity.
- (3) position title and brief description of activities.
- (4) starting and ending compensation.
- (5) name of all persons involved in the business, commercial, or professional activity with you.
- (6) all benefits and compensation received, including, for example, health, life, and disability insurance; expense account; use of automobile or automobile expense reimbursement; reimbursement for travel, food, or lodging expenses; payment of dues in any clubs or associations; and pension or profit sharing plans.

c. If you have been unemployed at any time since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified, state the dates of unemployment. If you have not been employed at any time since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified, give the information requested above in question 3.a for your last period of employment.

4. **ASSETS:**

a. **Real Estate.** State the street address, if any, and if not, the legal description of all real property that you own or owned during the last 3 years, or since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified, if shorter. For each property, state the following:

- (1) the names and addresses of any other persons or entities holding any interest and their percentage of interest.
- (2) the present fair market value.

b. **Tangible Personal Property.** List all items of tangible personal property that are owned by you or in which you have had any interest during the last 3 years, or since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified, if shorter, including, but not limited to, motor vehicles, tools, furniture, boats, jewelry, art objects or other collections, and collectibles whose fair market value exceeds \$100. For each item, state the following:

- (1) the percentage and type interest you hold.
- (2) the names and addresses of any other persons or entities holding any interest.
- (3) the present fair market value.

c. Intangible Personal Property. Other than the financial accounts (checking, savings, money market, credit union accounts, or other such cash management accounts) listed in the answer to interrogatory 4.d below, list all items of intangible personal property that are owned by you or in which you have had any ownership interest (including closed accounts) within the last 3 years, or since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified, if shorter, including, but not limited to, partnership and business interests (including good will), stocks, stock funds, mutual funds, bonds, bond funds, real estate investment trusts, receivables, certificates of deposit, notes, mortgages, and debts owed to you by another entity or person. For each item, state the following:

- (1) the percentage and type interest you hold.
- (2) the names and addresses of any other persons or entities holding any interest and the names and addresses of the persons and entities who are indebted to you.
- (3) the present fair market value or the amounts you claim are owned by or owed to you, at the time of answering these interrogatories.

You may comply with this interrogatory (4.c) by providing copies of all periodic (monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual) account statements for each such account for the preceding 3 years, or since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified, if shorter. However, if the date of acquisition, the purchase price, and the market valuations are not clearly reflected in the periodic statements which are furnished, then these questions must be answered separately. You do not have to resubmit any periodic statements previously furnished under rule 12.285 (Mandatory Disclosure).

d. Financial Accounts. For all financial accounts (checking, savings, money market, credit union accounts, or other such cash management accounts) listed in your Financial Affidavit, in which you have had any legal or equitable interest,

regardless of whether the interest is or was held in your own name individually, in your name with another person, or in any other name, give the following:

- (1) name and address of each institution.
- (2) name in which the account is or was maintained.
- (3) account numbers.
- (4) names of each person authorized to make withdrawals from the accounts.
- (5) highest balance within each of the preceding 3 years, or since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified, if shorter.
- (6) lowest balance within each of the preceding 3 years, or since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified, if shorter.

You may comply with this interrogatory (4.d) by providing copies of all periodic (monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual) account statements for each such account for the preceding 3 years, or since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified, if shorter. You do not have to resubmit account statements previously furnished under rule 12.285 (Mandatory Disclosure).

e. Closed Financial Accounts. For all financial accounts (checking, savings, money market, credit union accounts, or other such cash management accounts) closed within the last 3 years, or since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified, if shorter, in which you have had any legal or equitable interest, regardless of whether the interest is or was held in your own name individually, in your name with another person, or in any other name, give the:

- (1) name and address of each institution.
- (2) name in which the account is or was maintained.
- (3) account numbers.
- (4) name of each person authorized to make withdrawals from the accounts.
- (5) date account was closed.

f. Trust. For any interest in an estate, trust, insurance policy, or annuity, state the following:

- (1) if you are the beneficiary of any estate, trust, insurance policy, or

annuity, give for each one the following:

- (a) identification of the estate, trust, insurance policy, or annuity.
- (b) the nature, amount, and frequency of any distributions of benefits.
- (c) the total value of the beneficiaries' interest in the benefit.
- (d) whether the benefit is vested or contingent.

(2) if you have established any trust or are the trustee of a trust, state the following:

- (a) the date the trust was established.
- (b) the names and addresses of the trustees.
- (c) the names and addresses of the beneficiaries.
- (d) the names and addresses of the persons or entities who possess the trust documents.
- (e) each asset that is held in each trust, with its fair market value.

g. Name of Accountant, Bookkeeper, or Records Keeper. State the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of your accountant, bookkeeper, and any other persons who possess your financial records, and state which records each possesses.

5. LIABILITIES:

a. Loans, Liabilities, Debts, and Other Obligations. For all loans, liabilities, debts, and other obligations (other than credit cards and charge accounts) listed in your Financial Affidavit, indicate for each the following:

- (1) name and address of the creditor.
- (2) name in which the obligation is or was incurred.
- (3) loan or account number, if any.
- (4) nature of the security, if any.
- (5) payment schedule.
- (6) present balance and current status of your payments.
- (7) total amount of arrearage, if any.

You may comply with this interrogatory (5.a) by providing copies of all

periodic (monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual) account statements for each such account for the preceding 3 years, or since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified, if shorter. You do not have to resubmit account statements previously furnished under rule 12.285 (Mandatory Disclosure).

b. Credit Cards and Charge Accounts. For all financial accounts (credit cards, charge accounts, or other such accounts) listed in your Financial Affidavit, in which you have had any legal or equitable interest, regardless of whether the interest is or was held in your own name individually, in your name with another person, or in any other name, give the following:

- (1) name and address of the creditor.
- (2) name in which the account is or was maintained.
- (3) name of each person authorized to sign on the accounts.
- (4) account numbers.
- (5) present balance and current status of your payments.
- (6) total amount of arrearage, if any.
- (7) highest and lowest balance within each of the preceding 3 years, or since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified, if shorter.

You may comply with this interrogatory (5.b) by providing copies of all periodic (monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual) account statements for each such account for the preceding 3 years, or since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified, if shorter. You do not have to resubmit account statements previously furnished under rule 12.285 (Mandatory Disclosure).

c. Closed Credit Cards and Charge Accounts. As to all financial accounts (credit card, charge accounts, or other such accounts) closed with no remaining balance, within the last 3 years, or since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified, if shorter, in which you have had any legal or equitable interest, regardless of whether the interest is or was held in your own name individually, in your name with another person, or in any other name, give the following:

- (1) name and address of each creditor.
- (2) name in which the account is or was maintained.

- (3) account numbers.
- (4) name of each person authorized to sign on the accounts.
- (5) date the balance was paid off.
- (6) amount of final balance paid off.

You may comply with this interrogatory (5.c) by providing copies of all periodic (monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual) account statements for each such account for the preceding 3 years, or since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified, if shorter. You do not have to resubmit account statements previously furnished under rule 12.285 (Mandatory Disclosure).

6. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. If you are claiming a diminished earning capacity since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified as grounds to modify alimony or deviate from the child support established in your case, describe in detail how your earning capacity is lowered and state all facts upon which you rely in your claim. If unemployed, state how, why, and when you lost your job.
- b. If you are claiming a change in a mental or physical condition since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified as grounds to modify alimony or change the child support established in your case, describe in detail how your mental and/or physical capacity has changed and state all facts upon which you rely in your claim. Identify the change in your mental and/or physical capacity, and state the name and address of all health care providers involved in the treatment of this mental or physical condition.
- c. If you are requesting a change in shared or sole parental responsibility, primary residency, the parenting schedule, or any combination thereof, for the minor child(ren), describe in detail the change in circumstances since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified that you feel justify the requested change. State when the change of circumstances occurred, how the change of circumstances affects the child(ren), and why it is in the best interests of the child(ren) that the Court make the requested change. Attach your parenting schedule.
- d. If you do not feel the requested change in shared or sole parental responsibility, primary residency, the parenting schedule, or any combination thereof, for the minor child(ren) is in their best interests, describe in detail any

facts since the entry of the Final Judgment sought to be modified that you feel justify the Court denying the requested change. State, in your opinion, what change, if any, of the parenting arrangement is justified or agreeable to you and why it is in the best interests of the child(ren).

7. **LONG FORM AFFIDAVIT:** If you filed the short form affidavit, Form 12.901(d), and you were specifically requested in the Notice of Service of Standard Family Law Interrogatories to file the Long Form Affidavit, Form 12.901(e), you must do so within the time to serve the answers to these interrogatories.

I certify that a copy of this document was [/ **one** only] () mailed () faxed and mailed () hand delivered to the person(s) listed below on {*date*} _____.

Other party or his/her attorney:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Fax Number: _____

I understand that I am swearing or affirming under oath to the truthfulness of the answers to these interrogatories and that the punishment for knowingly making a false statement includes fines and/or imprisonment.

Dated: _____

Signature of Party

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to or affirmed and signed before me on _____ by _____.

NOTARY PUBLIC—STATE OF
FLORIDA

[Print, type, or stamp commissioned name
of notary.]

____ Personally known
____ Produced identification
Type of identification produced _____

**IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE
MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW: [N fill in all blanks]**

I, *{full legal name and trade name of nonlawyer}* _____,
a nonlawyer, located at *{street}* _____, *{city}* _____,
{state} _____, *{phone}* _____, helped *{name}* _____,
who is the [/ **one** only] ___ petitioner **or** ___ respondent, fill out this form.