

Court Service Center

New Hampshire Circuit Court

HOW TO FILE FOR A PARENTING PETITION

General information:

- Jurisdiction: Pursuant to RSA 458-A:12, one of the following must apply to file a parenting action or modification in New Hampshire
1. This state is the home state of the child at the time of commencement of the custody proceeding; or
 2. This has been the child's home state within 6 months before commencement of such proceeding and the child is absent from this state because of his removal or retention by a person claiming his custody or for other reasons, and a parent or person acting as parent continues to live in this state.
- Please refer to RSA 458-A:12-15 for other instances that may be present for NH jurisdiction.

Forms listed below are needed to start this action:

- Parenting Petition (Joint) (NHJB-2390-F)
- Parenting Petition (Individual) (NHJB-2061-F)
- Personal Data Sheet (NHJB-2077-F)

How much will this cost?

- \$252.00

What will happen next:

- A letter will be sent to the Respondent notifying him/her that they have 10 days to go to the court and pick up their copy of the Parenting Petitions. (Does not apply to Joint Petitions.)
- If Respondent does not go to the court and pick-up the paperwork the court will then send the Petitioner the paperwork along with instructions to have the Respondent served by the Sheriff or certified mail.
- After a joint petition is filed, or after service of an individual petition, you will be scheduled for a First Appearance session. At this session, a judge or master will explain the court process and highlight important things to think about involving your children. From this session you will leave with your next event scheduled.
- Child Impact Seminar information will be sent to the parties and is encouraged that the parties sign up or have taken the class prior to First Appearance. More information on this seminar is on www.courts.state.nh.us/fdpp

Forms that will be needed to finalize your parenting petition:

- Certificate of completion of the Child Impact Seminar
- Parenting Plan (NHJB-2064-F)
- Financial Affidavits completed by each party (NHJB-2065-F)
- Final Decree on Parenting Petition (NHJB-2078-F)
- Uniform Support Order (NHJB-2066-FP)
- Child Support Guidelines Worksheet (NHJB-2101-FP)

Forms and Instructions are available at any NH Circuit Court

Additional information can be found at:

www.courts.state.nh.us/fdpp