

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN JUVENILE COURT

COUNTY OF _____

_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE INTEREST OF _____, DOB _____, A CHILD.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| _____ |) |
| _____ |) |
| PETITIONER(S), |) |
| vs |) |
| _____ |) |
| _____ |) |
| _____ |) |
| RESPONDENT(S). |) |

Case No. _____

1.

Dated _____.

(Signature)

(Printed Name)

(Address)

(City, State, Zip Code)

(Telephone Number)

(Email Address)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CAPTION AND SIGNATURE JUVENILE COURT FORM

ND Legal Self Help Center Staff and Court employees can't help you fill out forms. If you're unsure how to proceed, consult a lawyer.

As a self-represented individual, you're responsible for following the same laws, rules, and procedures as an attorney.

There's no guarantee that all judges and courts will accept forms available through the ND Legal Self Help Center. Use at your own risk.

Documents filed in Juvenile Court Actions After the Action Has Started

Documents filed after the start of a North Dakota Juvenile Court action must meet certain formatting and signature requirements.

The ND Legal Self Help Center **doesn't** have forms or instructions for after a Juvenile Court action has started. You may find this General-Use caption and signature form of interest as a starting point for creating legal documents for use in existing juvenile court actions.

Laws and Rules Related to Juvenile Court Actions

Following are legal research starting points related to Juvenile Court actions. You'll need to conduct additional legal research into your legal issue.

Chapters [27-20.2](#), [27-20.3](#), and [27-20.4](#) of the North Dakota Century Code contain laws enacted by the North Dakota Legislative Assembly that apply in juvenile court actions.

The [North Dakota Rules of Juvenile Procedure](#) govern all juvenile court actions.

The [North Dakota Rules of Evidence](#) govern in juvenile court actions, unless an exception applies from [Rule 1101](#) of the North Dakota Rules of Evidence.

See also, the [North Dakota Rules of Civil Procedure](#) and the [North Dakota Rules of Court](#). These rules may be used to fill in gaps in Juvenile Court process that Chapters 27-20.2, 27-20.3, and 27-20.4 and the North Dakota Rules of Juvenile Procedure don't cover.

Definition of a "Child" for Juvenile Court Actions

The child who is the focus of the juvenile court action must be **either**:

1. Unmarried and under the age of 18; **or**
2. Under the age of 20 and committed the delinquent act while under the age of 18 and unmarried.

Only Certain Types of Actions are Allowed in Juvenile Court

Delinquent child: A delinquent child is a child who has committed an act that is considered a crime and is in need of treatment or rehabilitation.

Child in need of services: A child in need of services is a child who has committed an offense that only applies to a child, such as truancy, consuming or possessing alcohol, disobedience of parental commands, or using tobacco, and is in need of treatment or rehabilitation.

Child in need of protection: A child in need of protection is a child who is “without proper parental care or control necessary for the child’s physical, mental or emotional health, or morals, and the need for services or protection is not due primarily to the lack of financial means of the child’s parents, guardian or other custodian.”

Guardianship: A guardianship of a minor child is a juvenile court process where a judge or judicial referee appoints a guardian to act in the place of a parent of the minor child. A legal relationship is created between the guardian and the minor child, allowing the guardian to care for and make decisions on behalf of the minor child.

Termination of Parental Rights: An order terminating parental rights of a parent terminates all the parent's rights and obligations with respect to the child and of the child to or through the parent arising from the parental relationship.

This form isn't a fillable form. To create your legal document using this form, you have at least two options:

Option One: Print this form on 8 ½” x 11” paper and hand-write your legal document. Your hand-writing must be easily readable. Black ink is preferred.

Option Two: Copy and paste the Caption and Signature sections into a word processing program, for example, Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, Google Docs, or OpenOffice. Use this form and these instructions as your guide to format your legal document.

Caption (top of form):

- If you copied and pasted the Caption section into a word processing program, format your caption as close as you can to the Caption section of the form.
- Complete the caption exactly as it appears in the Juvenile Court summons.
- Fill in the title of the document.

Write/Type Your Juvenile Court Legal Document:

- Write or type your Juvenile Court legal document in your own words.
- If you need to add additional pages, add the additional page or pages between the Caption page and the Signature page. Write or type on one side only of each additional page.

Paragraph Numbering:

- Each paragraph of your written or typed Juvenile Court legal document must be numbered.

Date and Signature:

- The date and signature are at the end of your Juvenile Court legal document.
- If you copied and pasted the Signature section into a word processing program, format the signature section as close as you can to the Signature section of the form.
- You, the self-represented party, date and sign the document.

WARNING: By signing your name you're telling the Juvenile Court that you're telling the truth and that you have a good faith reason for your requests. If you're not telling the truth or if you're misleading the Juvenile Court, or if you're serving or filing this document for an improper purpose, the Juvenile Court could find you in contempt or you may be prosecuted for perjury.

- Fill your printed name, address and telephone.

If you have a physical address and a mailing address, type or write both addresses using the lines provided, and the space next to the address lines.

Verification:

Review the Juvenile Court laws and rules to determine if your legal document must be verified. (For example, petitions to start a juvenile court action must be verified.)

If your legal document must be verified, include the following verification statement after your signature and address:

I, _____ (petitioner name), verify that I am the
 Petitioner in the above-entitled action; and I declare, under penalty of perjury under the law of
 North Dakota, that I have read the Petition for _____ and know
 the contents thereof and that everything I stated the Petition is true and correct.

Signed on _____ (Date), in _____ (City),
 _____ (County), _____ (State), _____ (Country).

 Signature

 Printed Name

 Address

 City, State, Zip Code

 Telephone Number:

 Email Address:

Page Numbering:

The pages of documents prepared for the juvenile court legal document must be numbered.

- Number each page of the document. Page 1 is the Caption page.
- The last page of the document is the signature/verification page.

Service:

For information about service and proof of service in a juvenile court action, go to the Juvenile Court Service webpage at www.ndcourts.gov/legal-self-help/service-in-a-juvenile-action.

Don't include these instruction sheets when you serve or file the completed form.

****The North Dakota Legal Self Help Center provides resources to people who represent themselves in civil matters in the North Dakota state courts. The information provided by the Center isn't intended for legal advice but only a general guide to the civil court process. The Center cannot guarantee that all judges and courts will accept forms available through the Self Help Center. The Center isn't responsible for any consequences that may result from the information provided. The information can't replace the advice of competent legal counsel licensed in the state. Use at your own risk.****