

INSTRUCTIONS TO PETITION THE COURT FOR PATERNITY DETERMINATION ONLY

- 1. READ these instructions before proceeding.**
- 2. Fill in the blanks of the petition.**
- 3. Make two (2) copies of your completed petition (One for you and one for the opposing party.)**

- 1. File the original (the one you filled out) & mail/deliver along with check/money order (fee schedule online or call office) payable to “Prothonotary” to:**

**Family Court Prothonotary
100 N. Main Street
Doylestown, PA 18901
(215-348-6822)**

- 4. Please be advised that there is a fee with the Prothonotary to file this petition. This is in addition to the genetic testing fee (for mother, father and child or children) that must be paid in cash at Domestic Relations if you are granted the right to genetic testing. Payment must be made prior to testing.**
- 5. You will receive notice of your hearing date. At that time you must serve the opposing party with a copy of the notice and the petition.**

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF
BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
FAMILY DIVISION**

_____ Docket _____
Plaintiff

vs

:

_____ Complaint to Establish Paternity and
Defendant for Genetic Testing

Plaintiff, _____, requests genetic testing to establish paternity pursuant to 23 Pa. C.S. § 4343 and in support of that request states that:

1. Plaintiff is an adult individual who resides at _____

2. Defendant is an adult individual who resides at _____

3. Defendant is the natural mother and Plaintiff believes that he may be the natural father of the following child(ren):

Child's Name

Date of Birth

4. The above-named children reside at the following address with the following individuals:

Address:

Person(s) living with child

Relationship to child

5. Defendant was/was not married at the time the child(ren) was/were conceived or born

6. Defendant is/is not now married. If married, spouse's name: _____

7. There is/is not a custody, support or other action involving the paternity of the above named child(ren) now pending in any jurisdiction. Identify any such actions by caption and docket number _____

8. There has/has not been a determination by any court as to the paternity of the child(ren) in any prior support, custody, divorce or any other action. If so, identify the action by caption and docket number _____

9. Plaintiff agrees to pay all costs associated with genetic testing directly to the testing facility in accordance with the procedures established by that facility.

Wherefore, Plaintiff requests that the court order require the Defendant to submit to genetic testing and to make the child(ren) available for genetic testing.

Petitioner

I verify that the statements made in this complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Petitioner

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF
BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
FAMILY DIVISION**

_____ Docket _____
Plaintiff

vs

Defendant

NOTICE OF HEARING AND ORDER

YOU HAVE BEEN SUED IN COURT. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following papers, you must appear at the hearing scheduled below. If you fail to do so, the case may proceed against you and a final order may be entered against you granting the relief requested by the plaintiff.

Plaintiff and Defendant are directed to appear on the _____ day of _____, _____ at _____ AM/PM in courtroom _____ for a hearing on Plaintiff's request for genetic testing. If you fail to appear as ordered, the court may enter an order in your absence requiring you and your child(ren) to submit to genetic tests.

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW. THIS OFFICE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT HIRING A LAWYER. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE A LAWYER, THIS OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AGENCIES THAT MAY OFFER LEGAL SERVICES OT ELIGIBLE PERSONS AT A REDUCED FEE OR NO FEE.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

The Court of Common Pleas of Bucks County is required by law to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For information about accessible facilities and reasonable accommodations available to disabled individuals having business before the court, please contact our office. All arrangements must be made at least 72 hours prior to any hearing or business before the court. You must attend the scheduled conference or hearing.

(d) Service. Service of original process and proof of service in a civil action to establish paternity shall be in accordance with Rule 1930.4.

(e) Hearing and Order. At the hearing, the judge will determine whether or not the plaintiff is legally entitled to genetic testing and, if so, will issue an order directing the defendant and the child(ren) to submit to genetic testing, the cost of which shall be borne by the plaintiff.

Explanatory Comment-2001

Where the paternity of a child born out of wedlock is disputed, 23 Pa.C.S. § 4343 provides that the court shall make the determination of paternity in a civil action without a jury. That statutory provision also states, "putative father may not be prohibited from initiating a civil action to establish paternity." Rule 1930.6 governs the procedures by which a putative father may initiate a civil action to establish paternity outside the context of a support or custody proceeding.

BY THE COURT:

Date: _____ J.