

SELF-SERVICE CENTER

RESPONDING TO A PETITION FOR EMANCIPATION INFORMATION & INSTRUCTIONS

1. **MUST I FILE A RESPONSE: NO.** It is not required, but you *may* file a response and/or you may also appear at the hearing if you want to tell the Court why you support or do not support the Minor's request to be emancipated or to provide additional information or to correct information contained in the Minor's "*Petition for Emancipation*".

Note: There is a FEE.

2. **WHO CAN FILE A RESPONSE:** Generally, if you received notice of the request for emancipation from the Court, you *may* respond, though you are not required to do so.
3. **DOES IT COST TO FILE A RESPONSE:** There are fees for filing petitions, responses, and various forms with the Court. A list of current fees is available from the Self Service Center and from the Clerk of Court's website.

If you cannot afford the filing fee and/or the fee for having the papers served by the Sheriff or by publication, you may request a deferral (payment plan) when you file your papers with the Clerk of the Court. Deferral Applications are available at no charge from the Self-Service Center.

4. **WHEN MUST A RESPONSE BE FILED:** *If* you choose to file a written response, you must file it with the Clerk of the Court no later than **thirty (30) days** after you received the court papers.
5. **WHAT TO FILE:** After you have completed your Response, make **3 copies** and present the original and all 3 copies to the Clerk of the Court, Juvenile Division, to be stamped, **along with your filing fee** or fee deferral application. The Clerk will place the original in the Court file and return the copies to you.
6. **WHERE TO FILE:** You may file at one of the two facilities for the Maricopa County Juvenile Court:

Durango Facility
3131 W. Durango Street
Phoenix, AZ 85009

Southeast Facility
1810 S. Lewis Street
Mesa, AZ 85210

Cases are assigned to a facility based upon the zip code of the residence of the Minor. If the zip code is 85200 through and including 85299, or any zip code area that is east of Central Avenue in Phoenix, the case will probably be assigned to the Southeast Facility. Any zip code that is west of Central Avenue will probably be assigned to the Durango Facility.

You can present your documents for filing at either location; **however**, the hearing will be held at the facility to which the case is assigned.

7. WHO GETS THE THREE STAMPED COPIES OF THE RESPONSE:

- **1 copy goes to the Minor or his/her attorney.** If you know the address of the Minor or of his/her attorney, mail or deliver a copy of your response to the Minor or his/her attorney.
- **1 copy goes to the Judge.** If you provide a copy for the Judge, the Clerk of Court will deliver it to the judge assigned to the case.
- **1 copy is for your records** (if desired).

8. WHAT TO SAY IN THE RESPONSE: Tell the Judge why you support or object to the Minor's emancipation, and/or explain any other information the Court should be aware of in relation to the Minor's emancipation. **Write neatly and use black ink.**

9. GOING TO THE HEARING: In addition to (or instead of) filing the **"Response"**, you may attend the Court hearing to be available to tell the Judge why you support or disagree with the Petition or to inform the Court of any incorrect or incomplete information.

OTHER THINGS TO KNOW FOR THE COURT HEARING:

- a. The Juvenile Court utilizes a digital audio recording system to preserve the official record of proceedings. If a party wants a court reporter to record a proceeding in this Court, a written request must be filed with the Clerk of the Court and a copy provided to Juvenile Court Administration at least 72 hours before the commencement of the proceeding. There is a **fee** for this service.
- b. **If you need a court interpreter**, call **602-506-0490** at least **10** days before the hearing.

Court staff can answer questions about court procedures but only a lawyer can give legal advice. You can find lawyers in the yellow pages or online telephone directory listings under "Attorneys." The Self-Service Center has a list of lawyers who can give you legal advice and who can help you on a task-by-task basis for a fee, and a list of court-approved mediators as well. You may view the lists or on our website.

ALL FORMS REFERRED TO IN THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SELF-SERVICE CENTER FOR PURCHASE, OR FOR FREE ON THE INTERNET.