

Procedures: How to get your order for paternity signed by the judge

Requirements

A Judgment/Order of Paternity is your final court order that states you are the legal father, and requires the parties comply with the Court Orders about legal decision-making, parenting time, and child support. Before you get the Judgment/Order, the following requirements must be completed.

- ✓ **Parent Information Program:** The court must have a copy of your “Certificate of Completion” showing that you attended the Parent Information Program.
- ✓ **Fees:** Your court fees must be paid. This includes all filing fees. If you were granted a deferral (Payment plan), the payments must be current. Please note: You must attach to the Judgment/Order, proof of payment for fees in the form of a receipt, or a copy of the Order for initial Deferral of fees.

If you completed the above requirements, follow the steps below.

Procedures

Step 1: Complete the Forms in the packet:

- Judgment/Order Establishing Paternity, Legal Decision-making, Parenting Time and Child Support.
 - Add to the last page of the Judgment, the fee receipt or a copy of the Order for waiver or deferral to show the “Paid” status of your case.
- Parenting Plan, signed by you.
- If applicable, (required prior to January 1, 2025): Education Order (Choose only one: Sole Education Order or Joint Education Order. The Education Order you choose must match the type of legal decision-making you are asking for in your Parenting Plan.)

Step 2: Complete the Child Support Worksheet, Child Support Order, and Current Employer Information online via

ezCourtForms: <https://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/ezcourtforms2/>

Print out 1 copy of the completed Child Support Worksheet, Child Support Order, and Current Employer Information Sheet.

Step 3: If you are asking for a default hearing, then Family Department Administration must review your papers before you are granted a hearing.

A. You may email your original documents to Family Department Administration at: DefaultReview@jbazmc.maricopa.gov or if you are unable to email the documents, you may submit them to the department in person at any Superior Court location.

The documents to provide include:

1. Order for Paternity, Legal Decision-Making, Parenting Time and/or Child Support with
2. Parenting Plan
3. Education Order (if applicable)
4. Child Support Worksheet
5. Child Support Order
6. Current Employer Information
7. Fee receipt (if applicable), or a copy of the Order Regarding Deferral or Waiver of Court Fees and Costs (if applicable)

B. Be sure to also provide Family Department Administration with:

1. Income information or wage paystubs for both parties.
2. Information about costs for children's day care, medical insurance, special needs, etc.
3. Be sure your certification of attendance at a Parent Information Program class has been filed.

C. Family Department Administration will review the forms to see if you are ready to proceed to a default hearing.

1. If you present your forms in person, Family Department Administration may review the forms while you are present.
2. If you email your forms or the Family Department Administration is not able to review them with you present, they will review them within 3 business days of receipt.
3. After the review, they will contact you by phone.

If your forms are hearing-ready, the Family Department Administration will schedule a default hearing and provide any further instructions. If there are issues with your documents, the Family Department Administration will provide you information about what to fix. You will then need to resubmit your corrected documents.

The default hearing will be set at least 60 days from the date the responding-party was served the divorce or legal separation papers. (A.R.S. § 25-329)

Hearings are usually by video. Do not be late for your hearing. If you are late, your hearing will be rescheduled to a different day.