



State of Georgia
Juvenile Court of Forsyth County
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit

Christopher W. Willis
PRESIDING JUDGE

TELEPHONE (770) 781-3099
FACSIMILE (770) 781-3089

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR LEGITIMATION PETITION

1. You have been provided with this legitimation packet **because you want to become the legal parent of a child for whom you are the biological father.**
2. This packet contains the following documents:
 - _____ Petition for Legitimation (This is for you, the “Petitioner”, to complete and must be filed with your Verification.)
 - _____ Verification (This is for you to complete and sign in front of a notary. It must be filed with your Petition.)
 - _____ Summons (This must be served on the mother along with the Petition if the mother does not sign the Acknowledgment of Service. It will be signed by the Clerk when filed.)
 - _____ Acknowledgment of Service (This is for the mother to complete. If the mother completes this form and it is filed, you do not have the mother served with a copy of your petition.)
 - _____ Consent to Legitimation (This is for the mother to complete and file if she agrees with you becoming the legal father of the child.)
 - _____ Hearing Request Form (Complete and give to Clerk to schedule your hearing.)
 - _____ Legitimation Order (Complete and bring to your hearing.)
3. **If the mother was married to another person at the time the child was born, that person may be the child’s current legal father.** This person is referred to as “Respondent Legal Father” in the attached petition. If this applies to your case, you must put the name and address of the current legal father in your petition and you must serve him with a copy of your petition.
4. You do not have to request that the child’s name change, but if you do want the child’s name to change, you must write that into the petition.

I acknowledge I have read this information:

PETITIONER

Print Name:

Date:

**IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF FORSYTH COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

In the Interest of:

Case No: _____

Petitioner:

DOB: _____ AGE: _____

Respondent Mother:

A minor child.

Respondent Legal Father (if applicable):

PETITION FOR LEGITIMATION

COMES NOW, _____, Petitioner in the above-styled action, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-11-11 and O.C.G.A. § 19-7-22, et. seq., and shows the following in support of this Petition for Legitimation:

1. The above-named child is a resident of Forsyth County, Georgia and has an open dependency action in the Forsyth County Juvenile Court, case number _____.
2. Petitioner is the natural and biological father of _____, who is the above-named minor child. The Petitioner and child have/have not (circle one) undergone DNA testing showing that Petitioner is the biological father of the child.
3. Respondent Mother is the biological mother of the above-named child. The Mother resides at the following address: _____
_____.
4. The mother was/was not (circle one) married to another person when the child was born. If so, his name is _____ and his address is _____
_____.
5. Petitioner is asking to become the legal father of above-named child and for the child and Petitioner to have the same rights and obligations that arise by law from a legal parent-child relationship.

6. Petitioner requests that the name of the child be changed as follows:

NAME CHANGED FROM:

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name

NAME CHANGED TO:

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name

WHEREFORE, the Petitioner prays that:

- (A) The minor child _____ be declared the legitimate child of Petitioner _____, capable of inheriting from Petitioner in the same manner as if born in wedlock;
- (B) The name of the child be changed to _____;
- (C) If applicable, the Court direct the custodian of the child to cooperate with DNA testing;
- (D) All documents, including the child's birth certificate and social security card, produced and maintained on behalf of the minor child or Petitioner by the Social Security Administration, the Bureau of Vital Statistics, the Department of Human Services and any other agency or entity be changed to reflect the child's new name and Petitioner to be the natural and legitimate father of child; and
- (E) Petitioner have such other and further relief as the Court deems appropriate and just.

Respectfully submitted this _____ day of _____, 20____.

FATHER/PETITIONER

Print Name:

Address

Telephone Number

Email Address

**IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF FORSYTH COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

In the Interest of:

Case No: _____

Petitioner:

DOB: _____ AGE: _____

Respondent Mother:

A minor child.

Respondent Legal Father (if applicable):

VERIFICATION

Personally appeared before the undersigned, an officer duly authorized by law to administer oaths, _____, who, after being duly sworn, states under oath that he is legally competent to make this Verification and that the facts alleged in the attached Petition for Legitimation are true and correct to the best of his knowledge.

This ____ day of _____, 20__.

FATHER/PETITIONER
Print Name:

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Notary Public

**IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF FORSYTH COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

In the Interest of:

Case No: _____

Petitioner:

DOB: _____ AGE: _____

Respondent Mother:

A minor child.

Respondent Legal Father (if applicable):

SUMMONS

TO: _____

ADDRESS: _____

A petition has been filed in this court concerning the above child. A copy of that petition is attached to this summons.

This is a summons requiring you to be in court. If you fail to come to court as required, you may be held in contempt of court and punished accordingly.

Now therefore, you, the parties named above, are commanded to be and appear on the date and time stated below, and to remain in attendance for so long as said case may be continued and until discharged by the court, and you are commanded to lay any and all business aside and be and appear before the Juvenile Court of Forsyth County, Georgia, located at 875 Lanier 400 Parkway, Cumming, GA 30040 on the _____ day of _____, 20____, at _____ o'clock ____m., and any parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the above child is likewise hereby commanded to be and appear with the aforesaid child in said court at the time and place above stated, each of you then to make defense thereto and to show cause why the prayers set forth in the Petition should not be granted.

WITNESS the Honorable _____, Judge of the Forsyth County Juvenile Court.

This _____ day of _____, 20____.

Clerk of Court

Clerk/Deputy Clerk of Forsyth County Juvenile Court

**IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF FORSYTH COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

In the Interest of:

Case No: _____

Petitioner:

DOB: _____ AGE: _____

Respondent Mother:

A minor child.

Respondent Legal Father (if applicable):

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SERVICE, WAIVER OF PROCESS, AND CONSENT TO
VENUE AND JURISDICTION**

I, _____, Respondent to the above-styled case, hereby submit to the venue and personal jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court of Forsyth County. I hereby waive any and all claims with regard to jurisdiction and venue. I acknowledge service of the Petition for Legitimation and waive any further notice, service, and issuance of process in conjunction with the above-styled action.

This ____ day of _____, 20__.

RESPONDENT

Print Name:

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Notary Public

**IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF FORSYTH COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

In the Interest of:

Case No: _____

Petitioner:

DOB: _____ AGE: _____

Respondent Mother:

A minor child.

Respondent Legal Father (if applicable):

CONSENT TO LEGITIMATION

I, _____, am the mother of the above-named minor child. After being duly sworn, I attest that:

1. I have received a copy of the Petition for Legitimation filed in the above-styled case.
2. I am of sound mind and execute this affidavit freely and willingly and I have not been threatened or promised anything by anyone in connection with my execution of this affidavit.
3. The Petitioner is the biological father of the above-named minor child.
4. I consent to the legitimation of the Petitioner as the legal father of the above-named child and believe said legitimation to be in the child's best interests.
5. I have no objection to the Petition for Legitimation being granted.
6. I have nothing further to attest.

This _____ day of _____, 20__.

MOTHER/RESPONDENT
Print Name:

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Notary Public

**IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF FORSYTH COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

In the Interest of: _____

Case No: _____

Petitioner: _____

DOB: _____ AGE: _____

Respondent Mother: _____

A minor child.

Respondent Legal Father (if applicable): _____

REQUEST FOR HEARING AND RULE NISI

Please complete this form and return it to:

Forsyth County Juvenile Court Clerk, 875 Lanier 400 Parkway, Cumming, Georgia 30040

- **This form must be filed in conjunction with a pleading for the relief requested.** No hearing will be assigned without a corresponding motion or pleading.
- All requested information must be provided or you will not be assigned a court date.
- **You are responsible for notifying all parties and attorneys of the assigned court date.**

Name of Party/Attorney Requesting Hearing: _____

☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent ☐ Child Attorney/GAL ☐ Other: _____

Name of Opposing Attorneys or Parties/CASA/Guardian ad Litem:

Purpose of Hearing: _____

Submitted this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Signature: _____ **Print name:** _____

Email Address & Phone Number: _____

RULE NISI

A hearing having been requested in the above-styled matter on the issues raised above, the parties shall appear on the _____ day of _____, 20__ at ____:____.m. at the Forsyth County Juvenile Court located at 875 Lanier 400 Parkway, Suite 100, Cumming, Georgia 30040.

This _____ day of _____, 20____.

Judge, Forsyth County Juvenile Court

**IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF FORSYTH COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

In the Interest of:

Case No: _____

Petitioner:

DOB: _____ AGE: _____

Respondent Mother:

A minor child.

Respondent Legal Father (if applicable):

ORDER FOR LEGITIMATION

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-11-11 and O.C.G.A. § 19-7-22, et. seq., the above-styled matter came before this Court on _____, 20____ for a hearing on the Petitioner's Petition for Legitimation. After consideration of the evidence, the Court finds that the above-named Petitioner is the natural and biological father of the above-named child, and that the legitimation of said child is in the best interest of said child. As such, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. _____, born to Respondent on _____, is hereby declared to be the legitimate child of _____.
2. Legitimation of the child by the Petitioner/Father is in the best interests of the child because:

- ☐ The legitimation by the Father will promote the familial relationship and connection;
- ☐ The legitimation by the Father will promote paternal family resources for the child;
- ☐ The Father will pay child support;
- ☐ The Father will provide insurance coverage for the child;
- ☐ The Father will visit and be a placement resource for the child;
- ☐ The child will have inheritance rights from the father.

3. The above-named minor child's name shall be hereby changed and shall heretofore be _____.

4. The Bureau of Vital Statistics of the Georgia Department of Human Services and all other appropriate agencies are hereby ordered to change the child's birth records, birth certificate, social security documentation, and other document(s) to:

- a) List the Petitioner as the natural, biological and legitimate father of the child;
 - b) Reissue said child's birth certificate to reflect the Petitioner as the biological father;
and
 - c) Reflect the child's name change as ordered herein.
5. The child named herein shall be capable of inheriting from the Petitioner in the same manner as if born in wedlock, and the Petitioner and the child shall enjoy all other rights and obligations arising from a natural and legal parent-child relationship as provided by law.

SO ORDERED this the _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Honorable
Judge, Forsyth County Juvenile Court