

**2017**

**The Nineteenth Judicial District**

**COLUMBIA COUNTY  
CIRCUIT COURT**

**SUPPLEMENTARY LOCAL RULES**

**Effective February 1, 2017**

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**COLUMBIA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT  
SUPPLEMENTARY LOCAL RULES**

The following supplementary rules are established pursuant to UTCR 1.030 and apply to operations in the Circuit Court.

**Chapter 1    General Provisions**

**1.151            HOURS OF COURT OPERATION**

The Circuit Court in Columbia County (19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District) is located in the Columbia County Courthouse, 230 Strand Street, St Helens, Oregon. Unless otherwise ordered due to emergency conditions, information regarding business hours for the Nineteenth Judicial District can be found at: [www.courts.oregon.gov/Columbia](http://www.courts.oregon.gov/Columbia).

**1.161            FILING OF DOCUMENTS IN COURT**

From 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. court documents may be filed at the front counter in the Trial Court Administrator's office. Receipts for filing fees mailed to the court will be provided if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is attached to the filing. Documents without the appropriate filing fee attached will not be accepted for filing and will be returned to the party.

**1.171            COURT WEBSITE**

Columbia County Circuit Court maintains a website which lists information about the court. The address is <http://courts.oregon.gov/columbia>.

**1.201            INFORMATION ON FREE OR LOW-COST SERVICES**

There may be free or low-cost legal services or other relevant services in Columbia County that may be helpful to the parties in a case. Information about these services is posted on the bulletin board in the Trial Court Administrator's Office.

**Chapter 2    Standards for Pleadings and Documents**

**2.081            REMOVAL OF RECORDS AND FILES**

- (1) All court records will remain in the custody of the Trial Court Administrator, except as noted in sub-paragraph 2 below.
- (2) The attorney of record may check-out records and files from the Trial Court Administrator's Office only for the purpose of delivering the records and files to the judge for signature by the judge on Orders, Judgments and Judgments therein, and must then return the records to the Trial Court Administrator's Office. If the party is pro se, a court clerk will deliver the court record or file to the judge. No records of the court will be removed from the Columbia County Courthouse unless specifically ordered by the court.

### **Chapter 3    Decorum In Proceedings**

#### **3.171            ATTORNEY REPRESENTATION**

- (1)    An attorney wishing to appear in a case for a client who already has an attorney of record will notify the court of his or her representation as soon as reasonably practicable, and will otherwise follow Oregon Rules of Professional Conduct 1.2 and 4.2.
- (2)    If more than one attorney will be appearing for a single client in a given case, the attorneys must provide reasonable notice to the court of the role of each attorney in the case, including which attorney should be considered the “attorney of record.”
- (3)    Where a litigant in a criminal, juvenile or civil commitment case is represented by court-appointed counsel, another attorney may not represent the litigant in that case without first receiving written permission from the court.

#### **3.181            MEDIA OR OTHER PUBLIC ACCESS COVERAGE IF COURT EVENTS**

Media or public access coverage is prohibited in the hallways outside of any courtroom or court office. Upon request, on a case by case basis, the court will consider designating an area outside of the courtrooms and prohibited court areas for media and public access coverage. Requests to conduct public access coverage in such areas may be made to the Office of the Trial Court Administrator at any time during the business day.

### **Chapter 5    Proceedings in Civil Cases**

#### **5.061            EX PARTE MATTERS**

All ex parte matters will be heard at 8:30 A.M. or by arrangement with the individual judge’s judicial assistant.

### **Chapter 6    Trials**

#### **6.012            SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES**

The Circuit Court will comply with ORCP Rule 54F. At the settlement conference:

- (1)    No information disclosed will be revealed by the settlement judge or by any of the parties to the judge who will thereafter try the case, unless the parties have agreed that the settlement conference judge may preside at the trial.
- (2)    All trial attorneys and parties or representatives of a corporation or insurance company who have full authority to settle and compromise the litigation must personally appear at the pre-trial settlement conference. However, the judge may permit telephone appearances in lieu of personal appearance for good cause.

### **6.021 TRIAL FEES PAYABLE BEFORE TRIAL**

No court or jury trial will proceed to trial until the fees under this Rule are paid to the Trial Court Administrator. The receipt given for payment of said fees must be shown to the Courtroom Clerk at the time of trial before said trial will proceed.

### **6.031 TRIAL CONTINUANCES**

No continuances will be granted except for good cause. All motions must be made in writing, clearly stating: the reason for the motion; acknowledgment that the client has been advised of the motion for continuance; and, whether the attorney/party for the opposing side agrees or objects to the continuance.

- (1) Motions for continuance that are submitted twenty-one (21) days or more prior to the time of the trial status report

The motion will be heard at 8:30 A.M. three business days following the filing of the motion. The attorneys/parties may appear in person or by telephone. If a conference call is needed, the moving party must initiate the telephone conference call.

- (2) Motions for continuance that are submitted after twenty-one (21) days prior to or at the time of the trial status report

The motion will be heard at 8:30 A.M. on the next judicial day following the reporting day unless otherwise set by the court. The attorneys/parties must appear before the ex-parte Judge in person or by telephone. If a conference call is needed, the moving party must initiate the telephone conference call.

- (3) Motions for continuances that are submitted after the trial status report

Motions for continuances after the trial status report can only be filed for extraordinary reasons. The hearing on such a motion for continuance will be held before the assigned trial judge or as assigned by the presiding judge at 8:30 A.M. the next judicial day after filing the motion for continuance.

### **6.081 EXHIBITS**

In order for the Trial Court Administrator to comply with Oregon Judicial Department Policy pertaining to the listing and valuing of exhibits offered as evidence, the exhibits will be assigned a value of zero, unless the party submitting the exhibit supplies a written opinion as to their value to the Trial Court Administrator.

### **6.121 DISPOSITIONS OF EXHIBITS IN CRIMINAL CASES**

- (1) In cases where the parties request that an exhibit remain in the custody of the court, the court may require that the party requesting custody provide the court with a storage facility or safe deposit box, depending on the circumstances.
- (2) Upon request by an appellate court for transmission of exhibits pursuant to Rules of Appellate Procedure, Rule 3.25, the party having custody of the exhibit, must

immediately resubmit the exhibit to the Trial Court Administrator for transmission pursuant to the Rule.

- (3) Thirty (30) days following judgment if the court retained the exhibits, or upon return of the exhibits from the Court of Appeals, a notice will be sent to the attorneys of record requesting that they recover their respective exhibits within thirty (30) days or they will be disposed of by the Court in accordance with Judicial Department Policy.
- (4) In the interests of victims, exhibits which are their personal property will be returned as expeditiously as possible. The District Attorney will seek such returns on their behalf as soon as is practicable.

## **Chapter 7                      Case Management and Calendaring**

### **7.011                      CRIMINAL CASE GUILTY OR NO CONTEST PLEAS**

Dates for guilty or no contest pleas will be scheduled by the docketing clerk on the non-trial docket at the next available date after conferring with the parties. The court will not accept guilty or no contest pleas unless the defendant has first read and completed a Petition to Enter a Plea of Guilty or No Contest. The Plea Petition must be read, completed and filed with the court forty eight (48) hours prior to the time set for Plea and Sentencing.

### **7.012                      SCHEDULING AND NOTIFICATION**

Hearings, trials, and show cause hearings and motions will be set by the Judicial Assistant responsible for docketing that appearance. The Court will notify the parties of the date and time of the hearing or trial.

### **7.013                      CRIMINAL AND CIVIL TRIAL STATUS REPORT**

- (1) A Trial Status Report must be given by each attorney, or if unrepresented, by each party, to the Judicial Assistant of the Judge assigned to try the case. The Trial Status Report must be given by FAX, by email, in person or by letter delivered prior to noon the day of reporting. The Trial Status Report must not be given sooner than seven days before noon of the reporting date.
- (2) The Trial Status Report must be made by noon on the Thursday, two weeks before the week the trial is set. If the Thursday is a non-judicial day, then the report must be made by noon the Wednesday two weeks before the week the trial is set. The Judicial Assistant will notify the attorney/parties by 2:00 P.M. on the Friday preceding the week the trial is set whether the case will be tried or will be required to remain ready as an alternate.
- (3) The Trial Status Report must report whether the case is ready for trial, has been settled or a plea will be entered; and if:
  - (a) Trial - How much time is needed for trial.
  - (b) Civil Settlement - How much time is needed for any dispositional hearing or when the judgment will be presented to the court. The Judicial Assistant will

notify the attorneys/parties by 2:00 P.M. on the judicial day following the final reporting day whether the dispositional hearing will be held on the trial setting day or set for another day.

- (c) Criminal Plea - How much time will be needed for plea and sentencing or other dispositional hearing. The Judicial Assistant will notify the attorneys/parties by 2:00 P.M. on the judicial day following the final reporting day whether the plea and/or sentencing or other dispositional hearing will be done on the trial setting day or some other day.

#### **7.014 CONTINUANCES**

No continuances will be granted except for good cause. All motions must be made in writing, clearly stating: the reason for the motion; acknowledgment that the client has been advised of the motion for continuance; and, whether the attorney/party for the opposing side agrees or objects to the continuance.

- (1) See SLR 6.031 for rule on trial continuances.
- (2) All other continuance motions should be submitted as soon as the party is aware of the need for a continuance, but no later than noon the day before the hearing.

#### **7.015 SCHEDULING CONFLICTS**

If the court schedules an attorney and/or a party for more than one matter, in more than one courtroom, for a particular date and time (whether at the exact time or overlapping times), immediately upon receiving the second docket notice, the attorney/party must do the following:

- (1) If there are more than ten (10) days until the scheduled proceedings, the attorney/party must file a Motion to Resolve a Scheduling Conflict in both matters, with service on all affected attorneys/parties. The judges assigned to the conflicting matters will confer to resolve the conflict, and will notify the attorneys/parties of the decision. If the conferring judges cannot resolve the conflict, the Presiding Judge or the Presiding Judge's designee will make the decision and notify the attorneys/parties.
- (2) If there are ten (10) days or less until the scheduled date and time, the attorney/party must notify the other attorney/parties in all the scheduled matter, verbally or in writing, that they will be appearing before the Presiding Judge or the Presiding Judges' designee at 8:30 a.m. on the next business day to seek a resolution of the scheduling conflict. The Presiding judge or designee will resolve the conflict and notify the attorney/parties.
- (3) If the attorney/party does not have sufficient time to comply with (1) and (2) or fails to comply, the attorney/party must appear on the matter on the earliest date on the court's docketing notices. The attorney-party will not leave that proceeding until it has been concluded or they have been released by the judge handling the matter. The attorney/party must notify the judge and the other attorneys/parties in the second matter, as soon as possible but not later than twenty four (24) hours before the conflicting time, of the reason for their inability to appear in the conflicting case at the time scheduled.

**7.016 PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE AND CALL SYSTEM FOR NON-CUSTODY CRIMINAL CASES**

- (1) The first pre-trial conference (PTC) for a non-custody criminal case will be set on the docket 5 to 7 weeks from the plea date. Discovery will be made available to the defense counsel not less than 5 days after entry of plea. The district attorney must provide a settlement offer to defense counsel not less than 14 days prior to the first PTC. Defense counsel must meet with their client not less than 5 to 7 days prior to the first PTC.
- (2) If the parties are unable to resolve the case at the first PTC, at the discretion of the court for good cause shown - not by stipulation of the parties - a second PTC may be set. The second PTC must be set on the docket no later than 35 days out for misdemeanor cases and no later than 42 days later for felony cases.
- (3) If unable to resolve the case at the first or second PTC, the case will be set for trial that day. The defendant and their attorney must be present in person for the PTC's and the trial date and call date will be given to everyone at that time. There will be no exceptions except for serious illness, incarceration, or good cause shown. If the defendant fails to appear, a warrant will issue. No more than three non-custody trials will be set at any time on the same trial date.
- (4) There will be no more status conferences or pre-trial conferences scheduled after the trial is set. A trial readiness appearance/call date will be set on the Monday at 11:00 A.M. before the week the trial is set. All parties (DA, Defense Attorney and Client) must appear in person to advise the court they are ready for trial. This will be eight to ten days before the trial is to occur.
- (5) If the defendant fails to appear in person for the trial call, a warrant will issue and the trial will be taken off the docket and reset only after the defendant is arrested. Re-release may be problematic.
- (6) The district attorney's plea offer, either on the first or second PTC must be the last best offer and is good only until that PTC date. A first PTC offer could be affected by defense discovery or other issue and a second offer from the DA, if changed, must be made not less than 7 days prior to the second PTC.
- (7) If the last best offer from the district attorney's office is not accepted at the first or second PTC, all negotiated pleas are finished. The trial will be on all of the charges. The DA will either dismiss all charges, the defendant will plead guilty or no contest to all charges, or go to trial. However, at the discretion of the court and only upon a showing of good cause will a negotiated plea be allowed after the trial date is set and no later than two (2) weeks before the trial readiness report. If the court allows a negotiated plea the defendant and his attorney will complete a plea petition and the plea be taken prior to the trial readiness report.

**7.017 CALL SYSTEM FOR IN-CUSTODY CRIMINAL CASES**

- (1) There will be no more status conferences or pre-trial conferences scheduled after the trial is set. A trial readiness appearance/call date will be set on the Monday at 11:00 A.M. before the week the trial is set. The district attorney and the defense attorney must

appear in person or by video to advise the court they are ready for trial. This will be eight days before the trial is to occur.

- (2) The district attorney's plea offer, either on the first or second PTC must be the last best offer and is good only until that PTC date. A first PTC offer could be affected by defense discovery or other issue and a second offer from the DA, if changed, must be made not less than 7 days prior to the second PTC.
- (3) If the last best offer from the district attorney's office is not accepted at the first or second PTC, all negotiated pleas are finished. The trial will be on all of the charges. Either the DA will dismiss all charges, the defendant plead guilty or no contest to all charges or go to trial. However, at the discretion of the court and only upon a showing of good cause will a negotiated plea be allowed after the trial date is set and no later than two (2) weeks before the trial readiness report. If the court allows a negotiated plea the defendant and his attorney will complete a plea petition and the plea will be taken prior to the trial readiness report.

## **Chapter 8 Domestic Relations Proceedings**

### **8.011 DIVISION OR VALUATION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY**

- (1) Parties to all contested dissolution of marriage and dissolution of domestic partnerships may prepare a joint exhibit list similar to SLR Appendix Form 8.011.5 if there is any dispute as to the division or valuation of personal property.
- (2) The exhibit list must contain:
  - (a) each item of property
  - (b) in columns to the right of the property list there is to be each party's estimate of fair-market value, each party's proposed distribution, and any claim as to pre-marital or inherited property
  - (c) at the bottom of each page there is to be a subtotal for each party's claimed fair-market value of the property
  - (d) the last page must have a total for each party based upon their claim for the item and their estimated fair-market value.
- (3) Each party must provide the other party with their exhibit list at least seven (7) days prior to the final hearing.
- (4) The joint property list exhibit is to be prepared pre-trial and submitted to the Court at the beginning of the final hearing.

### **8.012 EDUCATION FOR DIVORCING PARENTS**

- (1) The following cases are subject to this rule: Annulment or dissolution of marriage actions, legal separation actions, petitions to establish custody or parenting, and post-judgment litigation involving custody or parenting time.

- (2) All parties, where the interest of a child under the age of 18 years of age is involved, must successfully complete the education for divorcing parents program offered by court-designated providers or a pre-approved alternative education program. Parties must register for the program or make application for approval of an alternate program within 15 days of receiving notice of this education requirement. All parties must complete the program before the initial pre-trial conference.
- (3) Notice and information to the petitioner of the requirement that the parties complete the education program or alternative education program will be provided by the Trial Court Administrator when the petition is filed. The party initiating the proceeding must register for the program within 15 days after filing the initiating pleading with the Court. A copy of this local rule and instructions on how to register for the program must be served by the initiating party on all parties against whom relief is sought. Service must be completed in the manner provided in ORCP 7 at the time the initiating documents are served. All other parties will have 30 days after service of the notice upon them to register for the program.
- (4) Each party must pay a fee determined by the program provider to cover program costs. The fee may be waived if the party presents a verified affidavit of indigence to the court, and the party meets indigence guidelines.
- (5) Each person who successfully completes the Court's program or the pre-approved alternative program must present a certificate of completion to the judge at the pre-trial conference.
- (6) Upon showing of good cause, a party may request a waiver of this rule. The request must be made by motion, supported by affidavit, and filed within 15 days of receipt of the Trial Court Administrator's notice.
- (7) Court action on a petition will not be delayed by a party's refusal or delay in completing the program unless the non-complying party is the petitioner or the moving party. Upon a party's failure to successfully complete the education program pursuant to this rule, the assigned judge may take appropriate action including, but not limited to, proceedings for contempt.

#### **8.041 PREJUDGMENT/PENDENTE LITE RELIEF**

All applications for prejudgment relief must be made by motion.

- (1) Motions under ORS 107.095, for custody, parenting time, child and spousal support, possession of personal property, and other temporary relief pending trial, must be made by motion to show cause, supported by affidavit(s) or declaration(s). The motion and show cause order must separately state each item of relief requested.
- (2) The show cause hearing will be set within six to eight weeks of the motion's filing, unless the court finds good cause to extend the time, and will be scheduled for a maximum of thirty minutes. The parties should be present to answer any questions the

court may pose, but the court will not hear oral testimony, and will instead consider the sworn written statement of the parties and/or other witnesses.

- (3) A notice of the hearing will be served on the opposing party, along with a certified copy of the order to show cause, and a copy of the motion requesting relief, any affidavit(s) or declaration(s) filed with the motion, and a blank Uniform Support Declaration (USD), if the motion requests the court to order the other party to pay child or spousal support. In such cases, the notice of hearing must contain a statement that the adverse party is required by UTCR 8.040(4) to serve a copy of the USD on the moving party, and file the original with the court at least seven days prior to the show cause hearing. In addition, the notice must contain a warning that if the adverse party fails to serve and file the USD no later than noon on the last judicial day before the hearing, the court, in its discretion, may not consider the USD or any other evidence which the adverse party intends to present at the hearing. If the opposing party is not represented by counsel, the notice of hearing will also include a notice as set forth in Appendix E to these rules.
- (4) All show-cause orders for pre-judgment/pendente lite relief will specify a response time of not less than 30 days from the date of service upon the opposing party. Such orders will require the opposing party to respond by filing an answer in writing together with opposing affidavit(s), declarations(s), or cross motion(s), if any, and to serve a copy of the answer, opposing affidavit(s) and/or declaration(s) on the moving party within the response time.
- (5) Pre-judgment relief may also take the form of one of the following:
  - (a) A motion for an “immediate danger” order pursuant to ORS §107.097(3)(a).
  - (b) A motion for a temporary protective order (or “status quo” order) pursuant to ORS 107.097(2)(a).
  - (c) Motions for relief pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) above may be heard on an ex parte basis under SLR 5.061, and are not subject to the 30-day rule specified in subsection (4), above
- (6) Motions for pre-judgment relief or responses to motions for pre-judgment relief will be considered by the court to be general appearances pursuant to ORS 107.055, thereby placing the case at issue and ready for referral to mediation and/or a trial setting.

#### **8.051 DOMESTIC RELATIONS POST JUDGMENT SHOW CAUSE ORDERS**

- (1) The procedures of this rule are limited to post judgment domestic relations cases. “Domestic relations case(s)” means dissolution of marriage, legal separation cases including post-judgment motions, filiation and interstate support proceedings. A contempt proceeding arising out of a domestic relations case is not covered by this rule.
- (2) An order to show cause will be allowed only upon the motion of a party supported by affidavit/declaration. The order to show cause will not contain a date for hearing. It will provide that the adverse party must file and serve a written response in opposition to the

motion within thirty (30) days from the date of service of the order and affidavit, or within such additional time as allowed by the court upon a showing of good cause. The order must further state that if an opposing response is not filed and served within the thirty (30) days, the order requested by the motion and show cause order will be granted and entered by the court. (See Appendix C for an example order.)

- (3) If the opposing party fails to file the opposing written response within the time allowed, the moving party must submit an order allowing the relief requested in the order to show cause. The court may require testimony of the moving party in such default matters. The court may, upon its own motion, enter the order requested if the opposing party does not file the required response or if the moving party fails to present the requisite order for signature.
- (4) If the opposing party files an opposing written response, either party may move for assignment of a hearing date. The party requesting assignment of a hearing date must serve a copy of the order setting the date on the other party. If either party fails to submit a motion requesting a hearing date the court may set a date on its own motion. The first paragraph of the motion requesting a hearing date must include an estimate of time required for argument and a statement whether official court reporting services are requested.
- (5) This rule is not intended to act as the procedure for orders requested pursuant to ORS 107.097(3), (4) and (5).

#### **8.071 CHILD PARENTING TIME**

Columbia County Circuit Court has adopted a standardized parenting plan, per UTCR 8.070. (See Appendix D.)

#### **8.081 - DISCOVERY IN DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES:**

Any request for discovery consisting of e-communications, medical or psychological records, or other information of private or sensitive nature concerning the other party shall be subject to a motion for protective order providing for an in camera inspection by the settlement judge in order to determine the relevance of such information to the pending case. The motion shall be supported by an affidavit setting forth why the information sought is particularly sensitive, and/or is likely sought only for the purposes of harassment, invasion of privacy, or other reason unrelated to obtaining discoverable materials.

### **Chapter 9                      Probate and Adoption Proceedings**

#### **9.081 PROTECTIVE PROCEEDINGS/OBJECTIONS**

- (1) Any interested person, as described in ORS 125.075(1), who has an objection to a petition in a protective proceeding may make an oral objection in a protective proceeding at the TCA counter located in the Columbia County Courthouse, 230 Strand Street, St. Helens, Oregon. The objecting party should advise the court clerk that the objecting party wishes

to make oral objections to the Petition. Upon receipt of the objection, the court will schedule a hearing and notify the appropriate parties.

- (2) If the objecting party wishes to file a written objection, the court clerk will provide the objection form (See Appendix B).

#### **9.091 STATEMENTS AND DISBURSEMENTS**

Vouchers for disbursements made during the period covered by the account must be retained by the personal representative.

#### **9.311 ADOPTIONS**

- (1) The petition for adoption must be submitted with payment for the required filing fees only. Payment for the amended birth certificate is to be tendered with the proposed judgment in accordance with sub-paragraph 2 (below)
- (2) The proposed judgment for an adoptee who was born in Oregon must be accompanied by an attorney check or money order payable to the Center for Health Statistics in the amount required by the center with the issuance of an amended birth certificate for each such adoptee. Judgments submitted without the required check or money order will be returned to the presenter.

### **Chapter 12            Mediation**

#### **12.001 MANDATORY MEDIATION**

- (1) Any dispute involving custody and/or visitation and/or parenting time arising from any of the following types of cases will be subject to mediation under this rule:
  - (a) Any domestic relations case, as defined in ORS 107.510(3)
  - (b) Any filiation proceeding pursuant to ORS 109.124 to 109.230.
  - (c) Proceedings to determine custody or support of a child under ORS 109.103.
  - (d) Any proceeding to modify custody and/or visitation/parenting time previously determined in one of the above types of cases.
  - (e) Any other matter involving a dispute over custody and/or visitation and/or parenting time upon motion of the court.
- (2) The court which refers a case to mediation may set in its referral order the limits of the mediator's scope of authority in the case. In order to preserve and promote the integrity of mediation as a dispute-resolution technique, the court will endeavor to include all reasonable agreements reached by the parties in formulating its order in the case.
- (3) A party subject to these rules may be excused from mandatory mediation upon application by the party to the court with service upon the opposing party and after being given the opportunity to be heard in objection and upon showing good cause.

#### **12.011 APPLICATION OF RULES**

- (1) These rules do not apply to mediation by private agreement.

- (2) These rules must not be applied to restrict the process, but rather to grant considerable discretion to the mediator and mediating parties.

#### **12.012 COURT JURISDICTION**

- (1) A case filed in the circuit court remains under the jurisdiction of that court in all phases of the proceeding, including mediation.
- (2) Any agreement of the parties reached as a result of mediation for which court enforcement may be sought must be presented to the court and the court will retain final authority to accept, modify or reject the agreement.
- (3) At any point during the mediation, the court may approve a temporary custody and visitation order reflecting the parties' agreement as to those issues.

#### **12.021 MEDIATION ORIENTATION**

- (1) When a proceeding under SLR 12.001(1) is filed with the court, the parties will be ordered to appear at mediation orientation. The parents will be given the opportunity to choose a mediator from those on the court-approved mediator list at orientation or consult with their counsel and report their choice of mediator to the court within fourteen (14) days. If the parties are unable to agree upon a mediator within fourteen (14) days, the court will appoint a mediator and notify the parties of the appointment.
  - (a) Mediation will consist of an orientation session and a maximum of eight hours involving the parties and the mediator. Additional time may be provided at the parties' expense.
  - (b) Once assigned to mediation, the parties are required to view the orientation video online, unless by 5:00 P.M. on the date given in the mediation notice, the parties through their attorneys or personally, request in writing, signed by both parties or their attorneys, are excused from attendance due to settlement or unforeseen emergency. If excused, the parties are required to view the video within two weeks of the missed deadline.
- (2) When a civil proceeding is not arbitration eligible or if one or more of the parties is unable to pay for the arbitration costs, the case will be referred to mediation at the discretion of the judge. The orientation for mediation will occur at the beginning of the mediation session.

#### **12.022 MEDIATORS**

- (1) To qualify as a court-approved mediator, a person must:
  - (a) Sign and file an application with the court; and
  - (b) Receive approval of the Presiding Judge, upon recommendation of the Local Family Law Advisory Committee.

- (2) The Presiding Judge may remove a mediator from the court-approved list at any time at the Presiding Judge's discretion.

**12.031 CASE ASSIGNMENT OF MEDIATORS**

- (1) The parties may select a mediator of their own choosing; however, if the mediator is not on the list of court approved mediators, the expense of the mediator will be the responsibility of the parties.
- (2) In the absence of a mediator selected by the parties, the court will appoint a mediator from the court approved list of mediators.

**12.032 AUTHORITY OF MEDIATORS**

- (1) A mediator has the authority and control over the mediation process; but a mediator has no control or authority over the parties or their decisions in the case.
- (2) A mediator has the authority to include and exclude attorneys from the mediation sessions unless otherwise agreed to by the mediator and the parties, in writing.
- (3) A mediator will encourage disputing parties to obtain individual legal advice and individual legal review of any mediation agreement before signing the agreement.
- (4) A mediator must not act as a lawyer for either party.

**12.041 SCHEDULING OF MEDIATION SESSIONS**

- (1) Upon notification of a mediation assignment, the mediator must immediately notify the parties of a reasonable date(s) and time(s) for the mediation sessions which must take place in Columbia County unless another location is agreed upon by the parties. The initial mediation session should occur within fourteen (14) days of the mediator's first notice of assignment.
- (2) Mediation must be completed in a prompt manner as to not unduly delay the court and in no event later than any deadline date which may be ordered by the court.

**12.042 MEDIATOR'S REPORT TO THE COURT**

- (1) In all cases which have been referred to a court appointed mediator, the mediator must make a final report to the court describing the conclusion of the mediation, whether successful or unsuccessful.

- (a) Successful Mediation

- (a) Successful Mediation
  - The mediator must prepare a written memorandum of any agreement which the parties have reached as a result of mediation. The unsigned, proposed form of the memorandum of agreement must be distributed to the parties and their counsel by the mediator. If the parties choose to sign a memorandum of

agreement after having had the opportunity to review with an attorney, the document may then be incorporated into a court judgment or order.

(b) Unsuccessful Mediation

The mediator may notify the court at any time following the initial mediation session involving the parties and the mediator that mediation has been unsuccessful, in which case the proceeding will be scheduled for hearing in the same course and with the same priority as if there had been no mediation. The mediator may determine that the mediation has been unsuccessful if the parties are unable to resolve the custody or parenting time controversy; or, if one or both parties are unwilling to participate in mediation; or, if the mediator determines that either party is using the mediation process in bad faith for the delay of resolution of other issues.

**12.051 COMPENSATION OF MEDIATORS**

- (1) In issues subject to mandatory mediation under these rules, Columbia County will compensate the mediator at the rate of \$75.00 per hour up to a maximum of eight (8) hours per case, including one (1) hour for time spent preparing written memoranda or agreements. The funding source will be fees collected pursuant to ORS 107.615 and 21.112. The County will compensate the mediator for one hour for attending the mediation orientation.
- (2) In issues not involved in mandatory mediation, the parties may agree to mediate with the court-appointed mediator; but the compensation arrangements must be between the parties and the mediator, as they may agree in writing, and the compensation rate must be negotiated by and between the parties and the mediator.
- (3) If the parties select a mediator who is not on the court-approved list, the compensation must be fixed by agreement between the parties and the mediator, and will be the responsibility of the parties.

**12.061 SMALL CLAIMS MEDIATION**

Mediation in small claims cases is mandatory. After a demand for hearing is filed, both parties will be notified by mail of the date they are to appear for mediation. Any counterclaims will be heard at the same time. Request for a change in the mediation date must be in writing and received by the court no later than seven (7) days before the scheduled mediation date.

- (1) All contested small claims cases must be referred to mediation pursuant to ORS 36.185.
- (2) All parties must appear for mediation. A party not appearing for mediation may have a judgment entered against them subsequent to an opportunity for a hearing. An authorized representative may appear on behalf of a business but must be familiar with the facts of the case and must have full authority to settle. Attorneys will not be permitted to attend a small claim mediation session.
- (3) If mediation is not successful, a trial will take place. Trials may be set for a future date. If mediation is successful, the agreement will be forwarded to a judge for approval.

- (4) If the agreement states that one party will have judgment against the other, the judgment is entered in the records as an enforceable judgment. If the agreement calls for the recovery of money, specific personal property or any penalty or forfeiture, and the party who owes the debt does not abide by the agreement, the party who is owed is responsible for enforcing the judgment.
- (5) If the agreement does not state that one party will have judgment against the other, the signed agreement is entered in the case as a stipulated order. If one party fails to comply with the terms of the agreement, the other party can file an affidavit of non-compliance within six months of the date of the stipulated order, which, if approved by a judge, will convert the stipulated order into a judgment for the original claim, less what the debtor has already paid. The creditor's filing fees, service costs, and a prevailing fee for a default will be added. After six months, if one party fails to comply with the signed order, a new case must be filed.

## **Chapter 13            Arbitration**

### **13.031            ARBITRATION COMMISSION**

The Arbitration Program will function under the direction of an Arbitration Commission, appointed by the Presiding Judge.

### **13.041            REFERRING CASES TO ARBITRATION**

Cases which are otherwise subject to arbitration will be referred to arbitration as follows:

- (1) Within twenty (20) days of the date on which the Answer is filed, or
- (2) If no Answer has been filed, but the return of service has been received, within ninety (90) days of the date the Complaint is filed, or
- (3) At any time as specifically directed by the Presiding Judge.

### **13.091            ARBITRATION PANEL**

- (1) The Columbia County Arbitration Panel will consist of individuals selected by the Arbitration Commission and having the following qualifications:
  - (a) An attorney with at least five (5) years continuous practice of law in Oregon including significant experience in civil litigation, with a present emphasis in his or her practice of law on civil litigation; or
  - (b) State of Oregon retired or senior judge.
- (2) The parties may stipulate to any arbitrator.
- (3) The panel will be selected by the Arbitration Commission subject to approval of the presiding judge.

- (4) A person desiring to serve as an arbitrator must complete an information sheet on the form prescribed by the court. A list showing the names of the members of the Arbitration Panel will be available for public inspection in the Arbitration Clerk's office. Execution of the form, oath and agreement to serve must be completed and filed before an applicant is eligible to arbitrate a case.
- (5) Refusal and Disqualification - The appointment of an arbitrator is subject to the right of that person to refuse to serve. An arbitrator must notify the Arbitration Clerk immediately if refusing to serve, or if any cause exists for the arbitrator's disqualification from the case upon any grounds of interest, relationship, bias or prejudice governing the disqualification of judges.
- (6) If disqualified, the arbitrator must immediately return all materials in the case to the Arbitration Clerk and the assignment of the case to arbitration will be repeated.
- (7) No arbitrator will have pending at any given time more than three (3) arbitration cases.

### **13.121 COMPENSATION OF ARBITRATORS - CIRCUIT COURT CASES**

- (1) The Arbitration Commission must establish a compensation schedule for arbitrators.\* The fee will be paid in equal shares by the parties within fourteen (14) days after the assignment of the arbitrator and will be deposited in the arbitrator's trust account until final disposition of the action. After final disposition, any refunds then owing will be paid within seven (7) business days.

\*The maximum fee per case established by the Arbitration Commission is \$500.00 except under extraordinary conditions when the procedural or substantive "complexity\*\*" of the matter justifies a higher fee.

\*\* For the purpose of this rule, "complexity" refers to the multiplicity of parties and their representative claims, but may include other factors. If the arbitrator suggests that such extraordinary conditions justify a larger fee, and the parties concur, the fee will be adjusted accordingly and will be paid in full by the respective parties prior to the commencement of the arbitration hearing. If the parties do not concur with the higher fee, the arbitrator will bring the matter to the attention of the Presiding Judge before the commencement of the arbitration hearing. In such circumstances, the Presiding Judge may authorize a higher arbitrator's fee which must be paid before the commencement of the arbitration hearing, but in no event more than fourteen (14) days following the court's written approval.

- (2) If the plaintiff fails to pay the prescribed fee within fourteen (14) calendar days of assignment, the court may exercise its authority under UTCR 1.090 to strike the complaint which constitutes dismissal of the proceedings, absent relief prescribed by ORS 36.420(3).
- (3) If the defendant fails to pay the prescribed fee within fourteen (14) calendar days of assignment, the court may exercise its authority under UTCR 1.090 to impose an appropriate sanction.

### **13.122 INDIGENT PARTIES**

- (1) In the event that funds are available under ORS 36.420 for the payment of fees that are waived or deferred, the arbitrator will be reimbursed after completion of the arbitration, filing of the arbitration award, and submission of a request for payment to the Trial Court Administrator. Such request must be in the form of a certificate stating the identity of the case, the total hours of service the arbitrator provided, and the share of those hours chargeable to the indigent party. If funds are available, reimbursement will be provided for up to three (3) hours for each indigent party. The certificate must be accompanied by a copy of the order waiving or deferring fees of indigent party.
- (2) In the event funds are not available under ORS 36.420 for the payment of fees that are waived or deferred by court order, a party may request that the clerk provide to the parties a list of arbitrators who have agreed to serve for no compensation, for compensation from one (1) party only, or at a reduced rate.
- (3) The clerk will provide names of available arbitrators, but no arbitrator is required to serve unless he or she has agreed to such alternate fee arrangement. The parties will select an arbitrator from the list.

**13.281 TRIAL SETTINGS ON ARBITRATION CASES WHERE A MOTION FOR DE NOVO TRIAL IS FILED**

Every case in which a request for a trial de novo is filed will be set for trial within sixty (60) days of the date that the motion for a trial de novo is filed.

**SLR APPENDIX A - 8.011.5**

<b>JOINT PROPERTY LIST</b>					<b>COLUMBIA COUNTY CIRCUIT CASE NUMBER:</b>							
<b>ASSETS ITEM DESCRIPTION</b>		<b>PETITIONER'S OPINION AWARD TO:</b>			<b>RESPONDENT'S OPINION AWARD TO:</b>			<b>PRE-MARITAL/ SEPARATE/JOINT</b>			<b>COURT'S OPINION OF VALUE AND ALLOCATION</b>	
		<b>VALUE</b>	<b>PET</b>	<b>RESP</b>	<b>VALUE</b>	<b>PET</b>	<b>RESP</b>	<b>JT</b>	<b>PET</b>	<b>RESP</b>	<b>PET</b>	<b>RESP</b>
<b>1</b>												
<b>2</b>												
<b>3</b>												
<b>4</b>												
<b>5</b>												
<b>6</b>												
<b>7</b>												
<b>8</b>												
<b>9</b>												
<b>10</b>												

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON  
FOR THE COUNTY OF COLUMBIA**

**Guardianship/Conservatorship of**

)

) **Case No.**

)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A Protected Person**

) **Objection to Petition for Appointment of  
Guardian/Conservator**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby object to the protective proceeding or the  
proposed guardian or conservator for the following reasons:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Objecting Party

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Objecting Party

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address or Contact Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone or Contact Telephone  
Number

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON  
FOR THE COUNTY OF COLUMBIA

In the Matter of the Marriage of: )  
 )  
 )  
\_\_\_\_\_)  
Petitioner, )  
and )  
 )  
\_\_\_\_\_)  
Respondent )

Case No.  
  
MOTION AND  
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE  
Post Judgment

Petitioner/Respondent moves the court for an order granting the following relief:  
(Enter the Relief Requested)

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) \_\_\_\_\_

**If you wish to object to the relief requested above you must file and serve an affidavit in opposition to this motion within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this order, or within such additional time as allowed by the court upon a showing of good cause. If you fail to file the opposing affidavit within the time allowed, the petitioner/respondent must submit an order allowing the relief requested in this order to show cause. The court may require testimony from the moving party in such default matters. The court may, upon its own motion, enter the order requested if the opposing party does not file the required affidavit or if the moving party fails to present the requisite order for signature.**

**If you file an opposing affidavit, either party may move for assignment of a hearing date. The party requesting assignment of a hearing date must serve a copy of the order setting the date on the other party. If either party fails to submit a motion requesting a hearing date, the court may set a date on its own motion.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for Petitioner/Respondent, Bar No.

\_\_\_\_\_



COLUMBIA COUNTY STANDARD PARENTING TIME GUIDELINES

It is the policy of this court to encourage the parties to work out their own parenting time schedule either between themselves or through mediation. The court will generally approve any schedule agreed upon by the parties.

However, if the parties are unable to agree on a schedule which best suits their family circumstances and the needs of the child(ren), these parenting time guidelines, when appropriate, will be used by the court as a basis for establishing parenting time. Because the circumstances of each family differ, the parenting time schedule established by the court may provide for more or less parenting time than desired by the parties.

Additionally, these guidelines are inapplicable to families experiencing domestic violence, mental health or substance abuse issues. The guidelines set forth reasonable parenting time for a non-custodial parent for cases not involving such problems, and in which the parents are able to communicate effectively and in the best interests of the child(ren).

These parenting time guidelines do not establish any minimum standard for parenting time and are not intended as mandatory provisions, under any circumstance.

- (1) Subject to the parenting time guidelines as set forth in subsection 13 of this plan which modify parenting time until the child reaches the age of six, the non-custodial parent shall have the following PARENTING TIME SCHEDULE:
  - (a) ALTERNATE WEEKENDS, a weekend being defined as beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and ending at 6:00 p.m. on the following Sunday; and
  - (b) ALTERNATE WEDNESDAYS, commencing at 9:00 A.M. and ending at 6:00 P.M., providing the child is not in school; and
  - (c) WINTER BREAK: Regardless of whether the child is attending school, parenting time shall be during the period of winter vacation of the district in which the custodial parent resides (measured from the day school adjourns through the day before school resumes). Parenting time for the non-custodial parent shall commence at 6:00 P.M. on the day school adjourns through 8:00 A.M. on December 25 in odd-numbered years, and from 9:00 A.M. on December 25 until 9:00 A.M. on the last day of the break in even-numbered years; and
  - (d) THANKSGIVING BREAK: In even numbered years, commencing on Wednesday at 6:00 P.M. and ending on Sunday at 6:00 P.M.; and
  - (e) SPRING BREAK: In odd numbered years, spring vacation of the school district of the custodial parents residence from 6:00 P.M. on the day that school adjourns until 9:00 A.M. on Sunday prior to the commencement of school; and
  - (f) SUMMER BREAK: Regardless of whether the child is in school, for a period of five weeks during summer school vacation commencing at the beginning of the break in even numbered years and the last five weeks of the summer in odd numbered years

(except that the child shall be returned to the custodial parent at least thirty-six hours prior to the commencement of school in the fall).

1. When the non-custodial parent exercises their right to a parenting time period of more than twenty days, the custodial parent shall have the right to a weekend parenting time. At the option of the non-custodial parent, the weekend parenting time for this summer break shall occur on the third or fourth weekend and shall be preceded by notice to the custodial parent at the commencement of the summer parenting time period. Further, this parenting time shall not extend beyond the summer parenting time period of the non-custodial parent.
2. In the period of time not assigned to the non-custodial parent, the custodial parent shall be entitled to an uninterrupted two week block during which the alternate weekend and alternate Wednesday of the non-custodial parent shall be suspended. Notice of the dates of the two week block shall be given to the non-custodial parent at the commencement of the summer break.

(g) **HOLIDAYS:** The non-custodial parent shall be entitled to alternate legal holidays as set forth in ORS 187.010 et seq, excluding Sundays and those holidays previously mentioned or explicitly covered, commencing with Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday on the third Monday in January in even numbered years, and in odd numbered years with Presidents Day on the third Monday in February.

1. Any holiday not falling on Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday, the period of parenting time shall be from 9:00 A.M. through 6:00 P.M., unless the holiday falls on a school day in which case there will be no parenting time. Any holiday falling on a Friday or a Monday, will entitle the party to the holiday, to have the child for the entire weekend, including the holiday. If the holiday falls on Friday, parenting time will be from 6:00 P.M. on Thursday to 6:00 P.M. on Sunday. If the holiday falls on Monday, parenting time is from 6:00 P.M. on Friday, through 6:00 P.M. on Monday.
2. Fourth of July shall be included in the non-custodial parent's summer parenting time during even numbered years, regardless to which the holiday belongs.

(h) **PERSONAL HOLIDAYS:** The non-custodial parent shall be entitled to have parenting time on the day of his or her birthday from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., if occurring on a non-school day. If the custodial parent's birthday falls during a period of parenting time, the custodial parent shall be entitled to parenting time with the child for that day from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., unless it causes a substantial interference with the scheduled parenting time of the non-custodial parent. Further, each parent is entitled to parenting time on their respective Mother's or Father's Day, from 9:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M.; and either parent may include this day in a whole weekend and trade the upcoming parenting time weekend for Mother's or Father's Day weekend.

(i) **CHILD'S BIRTHDAY:** The non-custodial parent shall be entitled to parenting time with the child on the child's birthday in even numbered years. The parenting time will be from 9:00 A.M. if the birthday falls on a non-school day until 6:00 P.M., and if the birthday falls on a school day, from 5:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M.

- (2) All parenting time periods shall be exercised in a prompt manner so that both parties can make their plans accordingly. The non-custodial parent shall pick the child up from the front steps of the custodial parent's residence no earlier than 15 minutes before and not later than 15 minutes after the parenting time period commences. Return of the child to the front steps of the custodial parent's residence shall also be subject to the 15 minute rule. The non-custodial parent shall notify the custodial parent by telephone at least 24 hours in advance if he or she is going to be unable to exercise parenting time rights as scheduled.
- (3) The custodial parent shall have the child fed and ready on time for parenting time with sufficient and proper clothing packed and ready for the parenting time period.
- (4) The non-custodial parent shall feed the child the evening meal before returning from the parenting time period, and return the child with the same clothes as when they arrived, laundered and ready to wear.
- (5) In the event the child is ill and unable to visit, a makeup parenting time will be allowed to the non-custodial parent on the next succeeding weekend. However, if the non-custodial parent fails to exercise their parenting time, for reasons of health or for any other reason, there will be no makeup parenting time period. The child will not be permitted to determine whether they wish to visit with the non-custodial parent.
- (6) Personal plans of the custodial parent or child, school activities, church activities and other considerations will not be reasons for failing to adhere to the parenting time schedule set forth in the court's order. Only substantial medical reasons will be considered sufficient for postponement of parenting time.
- (7) Both parties will provide addresses and contact telephone numbers to the other party and will immediately notify the other party of any emergency circumstances or substantial changes in the health of the child. Both parents shall be entitled to complete access to all medical, dental and other records concerning the health of the child.
- (8) The non-custodial parent shall, in addition to the parenting time, have the unlimited right to correspond with the child, and to telephone the child during reasonable hours without interference or monitoring by the custodial parent or anyone else in any way. Unless otherwise agreed upon between the parties, telephone conferences between the non-custodial parent and child shall be limited to no more than 3 per week and each call shall be of 10 minutes or less in duration. The custodial parent shall have the same rights as set forth above during the period that the child is with the non-custodial parent.
- (9) Both parties shall be restrained and enjoined from making derogatory comments about the other party or in any way diminishing the love, respect and affection that the child has for the other party.
- (10) In addition to the parenting time specified above, the non-custodial parent shall have the right to visit with the child at school, attend the child's school activities, and have full access to school teachers and administrators for complete information about the child in school. The non-custodial parent does not have the right to take the child out of school without the written authorization of the custodial parent.

(11) No modification, or acquiescence in changes of these specific parenting time conditions will be allowed or recognized, unless such modifications are in the form of a written stipulation signed by the parties, or a court order.

(12) As is state law, unless otherwise set forth in the judgment of dissolution, no modification or abatement of support shall occur during the periods of parenting time, including the summer.

(13) The following are PARENTING TIME GUIDELINES in reference to the age of the child:

(a) **INFANTS THROUGH 12 MONTHS:** The parenting time in section 1 shall be modified as follows:

1. The alternate weekend in Section 1 (a) shall be reduced to a 24 hour period beginning at 6:00 pm on Friday and ending at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday.
2. Sections 1(b) through 1(h) do not apply.
3. The non-custodial parent shall be allowed a 3 hour period beginning at 6:00 pm and ending at 9:00 p.m. each Monday and Wednesday.
4. The parents are encouraged to add additional days during the summer break.

(b) **CHILDREN AGE ONE THROUGH THREE:**

1. The alternate weekend in Section 1 (a) shall be reduced to a 24 hour period beginning at 6:00 pm on Friday and ending at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday.
2. The non-custodial parent shall be allowed a 3 hour period beginning at 6:00 pm and ending at 9:00 p.m. each Monday and Wednesday;
3. Winter break in Section 1(c) shall be reduced to 6:00 pm on December 23 to 8:00 p.m. on December 24 in even numbered years, and 8:00 p.m. on December 24 to 6:00 pm on December 25 in odd numbered years.
4. Thanksgiving break in Section 1(d) shall be reduced to Thursday at 9:00 a.m. to Friday at 9:00 a.m. in even numbered years.
5. The summer break in section 1(f) shall be reduced to 5 three day blocks, each block being separated by at least three days. The blocks may not be used to extend any period of parenting time to four days or more. The non-custodial parent shall notify the custodial parent in writing by May 1 of each year setting out the schedule for the summer break.
6. Sections 1 (b) and (e) do not apply.

7. If the holiday listed in section 1(g) falls on a Monday, parenting time will be from 6:00 pm on Sunday until 9:00 p.m. on Monday. Parenting time on Veterans Day and Independence Day shall be from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

(c) CHILDREN FOUR THROUGH FIVE

1. The summer break listed in section 1(f) shall be 2 two week blocks with at least a 2 week block in between. The non-custodial parent shall notify the custodial parent in writing by May 1 of each year setting out the schedule for the summer break.

(d) CHILDREN AGE SIX TO TWELVE: The parenting time schedule should be flexible enough to insure the child's participation in ongoing or special activities. During the summer, residence with the non-custodial parent is suggested with the custodial parent having weekly or bi-weekly access.

(e) ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS, OVER TWELVE: Flexible parenting time is the basic principle, with the child having some input to avoid scheduling conflicts. At this age, it seems the quality of time is more important than the quantity. During the summer, consideration should be given to the child's employment, organized athletics and other activities.

(f) LONG DISTANCE PARENTING TIME: Unless otherwise specified by court order, the non-custodial parent shall make appropriate arrangements for travel, taking into account the age of the child.

## APPENDIX E

See SLR 8.041

### NOTICE

You must file an answer in writing to this order within the time allowed by the order. If you do not file a written answer within such time, the other side may be given whatever he or she is requesting in the motion. If you have any questions, you should see an attorney immediately. In order to file an answer in writing, you must do the following things:

- (1) Your written answer must contain the title and number of this case.
- (2) Your written answer must specify the item or items of relief requested by the other side which you oppose. Although you do not need to state the reasons why you oppose the requested relief, your answer will be more easily understood if you do.
- (3) Your written answer must be signed by you and must contain your current mailing address and your phone number. All future notices and documents in this case will be sent to you at the address listed on your written answer unless and until you file in this case a written notice of a change of such address, and the court will proceed on the assumption that you have received all communications and documents mailed to you at your most current address on file in this case.
- (4) Your written answer must be mailed or presented to the clerk of the court so as to actually reach the clerk of the court within the time allowed.
- (5) Your written answer must be accompanied by payment of any filing fee required by law for the filing of the answer, or you must obtain a court order waiving or deferring such filing fee (you should contact the clerk of the court if you have any questions concerning a filing fee).
- (6) At or before the time you file your written answer with the clerk of the court, you must mail a copy of the answer to the attorney for the other side or to the other side personally if he or she is not represented by an attorney. You must attach a certificate showing proof of mailing to the answer which you file with the clerk. If you properly file a written answer, the court will set a court date and time for both parties to appear. The hearing will be scheduled for a maximum of thirty (30) minutes unless the court finds good reason to extend the hearing. The parties should be present to answer any questions the court may ask. The court will not hear oral testimony but will consider written statements of witnesses. If you do not file an answer within the time allowed, the relief requested may be granted. If you wish to seek affirmative relief for yourself against the other side, you must file an appropriate motion with an affidavit, and you must mail a copy of the motion and affidavit to the attorney for the other side or to the other side personally if he or she is not represented by an attorney.