

WHAT IS A “REQUEST FOR ORDER”?

A *Request for Order* is a request for the court to have a hearing so the Judge can make a court order. If a parent wants the Judge to make a new order about custody and visitation, support or other orders in an existing case, or if they want to change an order that already exists, they would file a *Request for Order*. The person who files the request is called the “moving party”. The other party is called the “responding party”.

WHY SHOULD I FILE A RESPONSE?

You should complete and file a *Responsive Declaration to Request for Order* to let the Judge know whether you agree or disagree with the other parent’s request. You also get to tell the Judge what you think the order should be. However, you cannot raise any new issues in your responsive papers. For example, if the moving party only asked for custody and visitation orders, you cannot bring up the issue of child support in your response. Instead, you would need to file your own *Request for Order*. In addition to filing a response, it is important to go to the court date. If you do not, the Judge may grant the moving party’s request without your input. Please look at the first page of the *Request for Order* for the court date, time and location.

HOW CAN I GET THE FORMS?

There are a few ways that you can get the forms:

- hire an attorney;
- contact a Legal Services Agency such as Bay Area Legal Aid or Pro Bono Project
- get the forms online at the state’s website, (www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp);
- use a self-help legal book or
- visit the Self-Help Center/Family Law Facilitator’s Office in person, Monday through Thursday, starting at 8:30 am. Please go to www.scscourt.org (and click on the self-help section of the site) for details on how to sign up for help at our office. **Please note: we cannot help people who have attorneys.**

Self-Help Center/Family Law Facilitator’s Office
Superior Court, County of Santa Clara
99 Notre Dame Avenue, San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 882-2926

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