

B. Identification of children

Check one

If paragraph 2B of the Petition (form 401) is not correct, check (2) and provide the correct information about the children’s identification.

- (1) The children are identified correctly in the Petition.
- (2) The children are not identified correctly in the Petition. The correct information is:

| | Child (1) | Child (2) | Child (3) | Child (4) | Child (5) | Child (6) |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| First, middle, & last initial | | | | | | |
| Birth year | | | | | | |

Check this box if you are attaching a separate sheet listing additional children.

C. Legal parents

Check one

If paragraph 2C of the Petition (form 401) is not correct, check (2) and provide the correct information about the legal parents of the children.

- (1) The legal parents of the children are identified correctly in the Petition.
- (2) The legal parents of the children are not identified correctly in the Petition. The correct information is:

For each child of the parties, state if legal parents have been established and how. If established by genetic testing or paternity affidavit, check the box marked “Other” and explain in section 4 below.

| | Child (1) | Child (2) | Child (3) | Child (4) | Child (5) | Child (6) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Legal parents established? | | | | | | |
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unknown | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If established, state how: | | | | | | |
| Prior court order | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| On birth certificate | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (explain in section 4) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Continued on next page

D. Children’s living arrangements

Check one

If paragraph 2D of the Petition (form 401) is not correct, check (2) and provide the correct information about the children’s residence.

- (1) The information about where the children have lived is listed correctly in the Petition.
- (2) The information about where the children have lived is not listed correctly.
The correct information is: *List children by initials only*

| | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Child (1) | Child (2) | Child (3) | Child (4) | Child (5) | Child (6) |
| i. | Children’s initials | | | | | |
| | Lived with | <i>Adult Name</i> | | | <i>City</i> | <i>State</i> |
| | Dates | <i>From mm/dd/yyyy</i> | | <i>To mm/dd/yyyy</i> | | |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Child (1) | Child (2) | Child (3) | Child (4) | Child (5) | Child (6) |
| ii. | Children’s initials | | | | | |
| | Lived with | <i>Adult Name</i> | | | <i>City</i> | <i>State</i> |
| | Dates | <i>From mm/dd/yyyy</i> | | <i>To mm/dd/yyyy</i> | | |

| | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Child (1) | Child (2) | Child (3) | Child (4) | Child (5) | Child (6) |
| iii. | Children’s initials | | | | | |
| | Lived with | <i>Adult Name</i> | | | <i>City</i> | <i>State</i> |
| | Dates | <i>From mm/dd/yyyy</i> | | <i>To mm/dd/yyyy</i> | | |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Child (1) | Child (2) | Child (3) | Child (4) | Child (5) | Child (6) |
| iv. | Children’s initials | | | | | |
| | Lived with | <i>Adult Name</i> | | | <i>City</i> | <i>State</i> |
| | Dates | <i>From mm/dd/yyyy</i> | | <i>To mm/dd/yyyy</i> | | |

| | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Child (1) | Child (2) | Child (3) | Child (4) | Child (5) | Child (6) |
| v. | Children’s initials | | | | | |
| | Lived with | <i>Adult Name</i> | | | <i>City</i> | <i>State</i> |
| | Dates | <i>From mm/dd/yyyy</i> | | <i>To mm/dd/yyyy</i> | | |

Check this box if you have attached a separate sheet listing additional children or addresses.

Note: If the children have been in Iowa for less than six months, the court may not be able to issue an order about custody or visitation. The rules are complicated, and you may need to talk to an attorney.

E. Respondent's status

Check one

If paragraph 2E of the Petition (form 401) is not correct, check (2) and provide the correct information about Respondent's status.

- (1) The information about Respondent's status is listed correctly in the Petition.
- (2) The information about Respondent's status is not listed correctly. The correct information is:
- Respondent (you are Respondent) is in the military service.
There are special rules that may prevent this custody and visitation case from going forward if you are in the military. You should talk to an attorney.
- Respondent is in prison or jail at _____ in _____.
Name of facility State

If you are in prison or jail, you may be entitled to a "guardian ad litem," a person, usually an attorney, appointed to protect the interests of a parent in some cases.

F. Protective or no contact order

Check one

If paragraph 2F of the Petition (form 401) is not correct, check (2) and provide the correct information about Respondent's status.

- (1) The information about a "protective order" or "no contact order" is listed correctly in the Petition.
- (2) The information about a "protective order" or "no contact order" is not listed correctly. The correct information is:
- There is neither a "protective order" nor a "no contact order" between Respondent (you) and Petitioner (the other parent).
- There is a "protective order" or a "no contact order" between Respondent and Petitioner.
If there is a "protective order" or a "no contact order," fill in the following information:
- a. County and state where the order came from: _____
County State
- b. Court case number: _____

3. Other Cases about the Children

Check A or B

- A. All of the information in section 3 in the Petition on other cases about the children is correct.
If you check A, skip to 4.
- B. Some or all of the information in section 3 in the Petition on other cases about the children is not correct. The correct information is:
If you check B, fill in the correct information below.
- (1) Juvenile court
Check a or b.
- a. There is no juvenile court case.

- b. There is a juvenile court case. The correct information is:

If you check b, fill in the following information:

i. County and state of the juvenile court case: _____
County State

ii. Court case number: _____

Check one

(a) Concurrent jurisdiction has been granted.

(b) Concurrent jurisdiction has not been granted.

Note: If the juvenile court has not given concurrent jurisdiction (permission), then child custody cannot be decided in this case. You should talk to an attorney.

- (2) Custody order

Check a or b.

a. There is no custody order.

b. There is a custody order.

If you check b, fill in the following information:

i. County and state where the custody order came from: _____
County State

ii. Court case number: _____

- (3) Child support order

Check a or b.

a. There is no child support order.

b. There is a child support order.

If you check b, fill in the following information:

i. County and state where the child support order came from: _____
County State

ii. Court case number: _____

iii. List the children the support case covers (initials only):

4. Other Information

Respondent denies anything in the Petition that Respondent has not agreed is correct.

In addition, Respondent provides the following information: *All of the basic information you need to tell the court is on this form. Provide other information only if you need to explain something.*

5. Respondent’s Request

Respondent asks the court to:

Check all that apply. The court will only consider items that are checked. If you do not know what you want, talk to an attorney.

- A. Decide custody and visitation.
- B. Establish legal parent.
- C. Order child support and medical support.
- D. Order that Petitioner pay the court fees.
- E. Order that Petitioner pay for Respondent’s attorney’s fees
- F. Other request:

6. Attorney Help

Check one

- A. An attorney did not help me prepare or fill in this paper.
- B. An attorney helped me prepare or fill in this paper.

If you check B, you must fill in the following information:

Name of attorney or organization, if any

Attorney’s PIN – Ask attorney

Business address of attorney or organization

City

State

ZIP code

(____)_____
Attorney’s phone no.

(____)_____
Attorney’s fax no. – optional

Attorney’s email address – optional

7. Service Instructions

If Respondent is filing in paper

Check one

- A. Respondent will accept service of documents at the attorney’s address listed above;
or
- B. Respondent will accept service of documents in this case at the mailing address below.

Continued on next page

8. Certification of Service by Mailing or Delivery

Section 8 to be completed only if filing in paper or if the other party is exempt from electronic filing. This document, if filed electronically, will automatically be served on registered parties.

I, _____, certify that on _____, 20____
Print your name Month Day Year

I mailed or gave a copy of this Answer to the other party or the other party’s attorney at this address:

Name of person to whom I delivered or mailed it

Party’s or attorney’s mailing address City State ZIP code

9. Oath and Signature

I, _____, have read this Answer, and I certify under penalty
Print your name
of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the State of Iowa that the information I have provided in this Answer is true and correct.

Signed on: _____, 20____
*Month Day Year Your signature**

Mailing address City State ZIP code

(_____) _____
Phone number Email address Additional email address – if available

* Whether filing electronically or in paper, you must handwrite your signature on this form. If you are filing electronically, scan the form after signing it and then file electronically

Important Instructions for filing this form on next page.

Instructions for Rule 17.400—Form 415: *Answer to Petition for Custody and Visitation*

Do not file these instructions

Instructions for Filing an Answer to a Petition for Custody and Visitation

The Iowa Judicial Branch uses an electronic court system known as the eFile System. **You must file electronically** unless you get permission from the court to file in paper. Contact the clerk of court in your county if you are unable to file electronically.

Filing your Answer electronically

- You must register to file electronically. For help, see the [eFile User Guide](#) and the instructions on the [eFile Instructions page](#) on the Iowa Judicial Branch website.
- Scan the signed Answer form and save it as a .pdf. (Save it in a place that will be accessible to you when you file electronically.)
- Log in to the eFile System on the Iowa Judicial Branch website and file your Answer.
- The login page can be accessed from two different paths: you may [directly log in to eFile](#); or from the judicial branch website menu, you may select "eFile Login."
- You will receive a Notice of Electronic Filing when the clerk of court has approved the filing of your Answer and other documents. You can then open the Answer and print a copy for your records.
- If there was a problem with your filing, you will receive a Notification of Electronic Filing in your eFile account. Log into My Filings, correct the error, and resubmit your filing. For help, see [Resubmitting a Returned Filing](#).
- The Notice of Electronic Filing will indicate if the other parent is exempt from electronic filing requirements, in which case, you must mail or serve in paper a copy of the document on the other parent if he or she does not have an attorney.

Filing your Answer in paper

- Make two photocopies of the original.
- Take your original Answer form and the photocopies to the clerk of court's office in the county where the Petition was filed. The county is listed at the top of the Petition (form 401).
- The clerk will time-stamp your forms and copies.
- The clerk will take the original and give the copies back to you.
- Keep one of the copies for your records.
- Serve one of the copies of your Answer on the other parent (Petitioner).
- You can hand one of the copies of the Answer form to the other parent, **or** mail a copy to the other parent at the address shown on the Petition.
- If the other parent has an attorney, you should serve the Answer by mailing a copy to the attorney at the attorney's address on the Petition if box 7A on the Petition is checked.

Do not file these instructions