

READ BEFORE FILLING OUT THE COMPLAINT FORM

Determining parenting rights and responsibilities between unmarried parents can have serious long-term legal consequences. Before you start, it is strongly recommended that you consult a lawyer and carefully consider all of your options.

Only a lawyer who has agreed to represent you can give you legal advice and tell you about your options based on your circumstances.

This Complaint form is part of the *Determining Parenting Rights and Responsibilities – With An Agreement On All Issues* forms packet. This Complaint form and the forms packet may be used if you answer “Yes” to ALL of the following:

- Both parents agree on all issues and there are no issues on which they disagree.
- The parents of the minor child(ren) have never been married to each other.
- All of the minor children have lived in North Dakota with a parent for at least the past 6 months (or since birth);

OR

Within the past 6 months, North Dakota was the home state of all of the minor children and one parent still lives in North Dakota.

- This is the only legal action pending between the parents regarding the minor children.
- The father of the minor child(ren) is recognized as the father by a signed acknowledgement of paternity, a court order, or an adoption order.
- Neither parent is currently in the military; ***OR*** one or both parents are currently in the military but not deploying or deployed.
- There is no domestic violence protection order or disorderly conduct restraining order in effect regarding either parent.

If you answered “No” to any of the above, you may not use this form or the forms packet.

Read the instructions for the forms packet and this form before filling out the Complaint. If you are unsure how to proceed, you should consult a lawyer.

The Complaint form must be filled out completely. If the Complaint form is not filled out completely and signed by the Plaintiff, the form may not be accepted by the clerk of court for filing.

If the form is accepted for filing, but the judge or judicial referee assigned to the action determines the form is incomplete, your case may be dismissed without granting a judgment determining your parenting rights and responsibilities.

Do not include this cover sheet when you serve or file the completed form.

DETERMINING PARENTING RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES WITH AN AGREEMENT ON ALL ISSUES

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FORM 2: COMPLAINT

(Form 2: Complaint is part of the *Determining Parenting Rights and Responsibilities With an Agreement on All Issues* packet of forms. Review the instructions for the packet of forms before completing the Complaint.)

ND Legal Self Help Center Staff and Court employees cannot help you fill out forms. If you are unsure how to proceed, you should consult a lawyer.

There is no guarantee that all judges and courts will accept forms available through the ND Legal Self Help Center. Use at your own risk.

Do not include these instruction sheets when you serve or file the completed form.

THE PLAINTIFF COMPLETES AND SIGNS THIS FORM.

Top of form (Caption): Fill in the caption exactly as you filled in the caption on *Form 1: Summons*.

Paragraph 1: Fill in your information.

- Be sure to use your full, legal name.
- Put a checkmark (✓) next to either “mother” or “father.”

Paragraph 2: Fill in the information for the Defendant.

- Be sure to use the Defendant’s full, legal name.
- Put a checkmark (✓) next to either “mother” or “father.”

Paragraph 3: If this statement is not true, you may not use this form or the *Determining Parenting Rights and Responsibilities With an Agreement on All Issues* packet of forms.

Paragraph 4: Put a checkmark (✓) next to the statement that true for your situation. If neither statement is true, you may not use this form or the *Determining Parenting Rights and Responsibilities With an Agreement on All Issues* packet of forms.

- See the instructions for the packet of forms for the definitions of deployed or deploying parent.

Paragraph 5: Fill in the information for each minor child of you and Defendant.

- Be sure to use only the initials of each minor child.
- If the minor child does not have a social security number, type or write “N/A”.

If you have more than three minor children together, attach a sheet that lists the information for each additional child.

- Put a checkmark (✓) in the box at the end of Paragraph 5.
- Type or write “Complaint Paragraph 5” on the top of the additional sheet(s).

Paragraph 6: Put a checkmark (✓) next to the residential responsibility option that you and the Defendant will request from the Court. DO NOT put a checkmark in more than one box.

- See the instructions for the packet of forms for definitions of residential responsibility and parenting time.
- The option you select in this paragraph must match the option you select on *Form 3: Settlement Agreement*, Page 5, Paragraph 5(a).

Please note that this forms packet does not include an option for split residential responsibility (dividing the minor children between the parents). If you want a court to establish split residential responsibility, you may not use this form or the *Determining Parenting Rights and Responsibilities With an Agreement on All Issues* packet of forms.

Paragraph 7: Put a checkmark (✓) next to the statement that is true for your situation. If neither statement is true, you may not use this form or the *Determining Parenting Rights and Responsibilities With an Agreement on All Issues* packet of forms.

Paragraph 8: Put a checkmark (✓) next to the statement that is true for your situation.

- Type or write the full, legal name of the parent.

If neither statement is true, you may not use this form or the *Determining Parenting Rights and Responsibilities With an Agreement on All Issues* packet of forms.

Paragraph 9: Complete all 5 parts of Paragraph 9.

- Paragraph 9(a): Fill in the information for each minor child listed in Paragraph 5. (Initials only)
- Paragraph 9(b): Fill in the information for each minor child listed in Paragraph 5. (Initials only)
- Paragraph 9(c): Put a checkmark (✓) next to the statement that is true for your situation. If you select the second option, fill in the additional information.
- Paragraph 9(d): Put a checkmark (✓) next to the statement that is true for your situation. If you select the second option, fill in the additional information.
- Paragraph 9(e): Put a checkmark (✓) next to the statement that is true for your situation. If you select the second option, fill in the additional information.
- If you need more space to answer any of Paragraph 9, attach a sheet or sheets with the additional information.
 - Put a checkmark (✓) in the box at the end of Paragraph 9.
 - Type or write “Complaint Paragraph 9” on top of the additional sheet(s).

Paragraph 10: Put a checkmark (✓) next to the statement that is true for your situation. If you select the second option, fill in the case number of the child support order.

- If you already have a child support order, make sure you have a copy. You will file the copy of the child support order with the court. (See Step Ten of the Instructions for the forms packet.)

Paragraph 11: If this statement is not true, you may not use this form or the *Determining Parenting Rights and Responsibilities With an Agreement on All Issues* packet of forms.

Date and Signature: Complete the date and signature block.

- Fill in the date you sign this document.
- Sign the signature line.
- Fill in the address lines. If you have a physical address and a mailing address, type or write both addresses using the lines provided, and the space next to the address lines.
- Fill in the telephone number line.

Verification: Do not fill out or sign the verification until you are in the presence of a Notary Public or a Clerk of Court. Make sure to bring identification to show to the Notary Public or Clerk of Court.

WARNING: By signing your name you are telling the Court that you are telling the truth and that you have a good faith reason for your requests. If you are not telling the truth or if you are misleading the Court, or if you are serving or filing this document for an improper purpose, the Court could find you in contempt or you may be prosecuted for perjury.

Do not include these instruction sheets when you serve or file the completed form.

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF _____

_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

(Plaintiff)

PLAINTIFF,

Vs

(Defendant)

DEFENDANT.

Case No. _____

COMPLAINT

The Plaintiff for (his)(her) cause of action, states as follows:

- 1. Plaintiff, _____, is the mother **OR** father (check one) of the minor child(ren).

Address: _____
(street address)

(city, state, zip code)

Birth Year: _____
Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number: XXX-XX-_____
Employer's Name and Address: _____

Length of Residence in North Dakota (Months/Years): _____

- 2. Defendant, _____, is the mother **OR** father (check one) of the minor child(ren).

Address: _____
(street address)

(city, state, zip code)

Birth Year: _____
Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number: XXX-XX-_____
Employer's Name and Address: _____

Length of Residence in North Dakota (Months/Years): _____

3. Plaintiff and Defendant are not husband and wife and have never been married to each other.

4. (Check one)

Neither Plaintiff nor Defendant is currently in the Armed Services of the United States of America or its allies.

OR

Plaintiff/ Defendant (check all that apply) is/are currently in the Armed Services of the United States of America or its allies but not currently deployed or notified of deployment.

5. Plaintiff and Defendant have minor children together, namely:

a. Minor Child's Initials: _____ Year of Birth: _____

Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number: XXX-XX-_____

Address: _____

b. Minor Child's Initials: _____ Year of Birth: _____

Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number: XXX-XX-_____

Address: _____

c. Minor Child's Initials: _____ Year of Birth: _____

Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number: XXX-XX-_____

Address: _____

Additional sheets are attached. (Check if applicable)

6. It is in the best interests of the minor child(ren) that residential responsibility is granted as follows: (check one)

Shared equally between the Plaintiff and the Defendant.

OR

Primary residential responsibility granted to the Plaintiff, subject to the Defendant's reasonable parenting time.

OR

Primary residential responsibility granted to the Defendant, subject to the Plaintiff's reasonable parenting time.

7. (Check one)
 Plaintiff/ Defendant is not pregnant. (check one)

OR

The Plaintiff/ Defendant is pregnant. (check one)
 However, the Plaintiff/ Defendant (check one) is not the father, and the child is not at issue in this proceeding.

8. This Court has jurisdiction to determine parenting rights and responsibilities and decision making responsibility of the minor child(ren) pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 14-14.1-12 because: (check one)

The child(ren) has/have lived in North Dakota with a parent for at least six consecutive months immediately before the start of this proceeding. If a child is less than six months old, the child has lived in North Dakota with a parent since their birth.

Name of parent residing in North Dakota: _____

OR

North Dakota was the home state of the child(ren) within six months of the start of this proceeding, and one parent continues to reside in North Dakota.

Name of parent residing in North Dakota: _____

9. This proceeding will affect the custody of the minor child(ren). The following information is required by N.D.C.C. § 14-14.1-20:

- a. Within the past five (5) years, the child(ren) has/have lived at the following addresses:

Child's Initials	Address (street, city, state, zip code)	Date From	Date To

- b. The names and current addresses of the persons with whom the child(ren) has/have lived in the past five (5) years are as follows:

Child's Initials	Name of Person(s)	Current Address (street, city, state, zip code)

- c. (Check one)

Plaintiff has not participated, as a party or witness or in any other capacity, in any other proceeding concerning the custody of or visitation with the child(ren).

OR

Plaintiff has participated in the following proceeding(s) concerning the child(ren) as a party or witness, or in another capacity concerning the custody of or visitation with the child(ren):

Name of Court	State	Case Number	Date of Determination

- d. (Check one)

Plaintiff does not know of any proceeding that could affect the current proceeding, including proceedings for enforcement and proceedings relating to domestic violence, protective orders, termination of parental rights, adoptions, neglect, abuse, deprivation, guardianship, or paternity.

OR

Plaintiff knows of the following proceeding(s) that could affect the current proceeding, including proceedings for enforcement and proceedings relating to domestic violence, protective orders, termination of parental rights, adoptions, neglect, abuse, deprivation, guardianship, or paternity.

Name of Court	State	Case Number	Type of proceeding

e. (Check one)

Plaintiff does not know of any person who is not a party to this proceeding who has physical custody of the child(ren) or claims rights of legal custody or physical custody of, or visitation with, the child(ren).

OR

Plaintiff knows of the following person(s) who is/are not a party to this proceeding who has physical custody of the child(ren) or claims rights of legal custody of physical custody of, or visitation with, the child(ren).

Name of Person(s)	Address (street, city, state, zip code)

Additional sheets are attached. (Check if applicable)

10. (Choose one)

Plaintiff/ Defendant (choose one) is an able-bodied person and is able to contribute toward the support of the minor child(ren).

OR

There is a child support order already in existence. The case number is _____.

11. No separate proceeding for determining parenting rights and responsibilities between unmarried parents has been started or is pending in the State of North Dakota or elsewhere.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff asks for judgment as follows:

1. For residential responsibility and parenting time that serve the minor child(ren)'s best interests.
3. For child support obligations, if requested above, that serve the minor child(ren)'s best interests, including those related to traditional child support, dependent medical and dental insurance coverage, and contribution to the child(ren)'s uninsured dental and medical expenses.
4. For such further and additional relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Signature of Plaintiff

Typed or Printed Name of Plaintiff

Address

_____, _____
City State Zip Code

(_____) _____
Telephone Number

VERIFICATION

_____, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and says that I am the Plaintiff in the above-entitled action; that I have read the Complaint for determining parenting rights and responsibilities between unmarried parents and know the contents thereof and that the same is true, except as to matters stated therein upon information and belief as to those matters I state that I believe them to be true.

Dated _____, 20____

(Plaintiff's Signature)

State of: _____

County of: _____

Signed and sworn to before me on _____, 20____ by

_____.

(Notary Public or Clerk of Court)

If Notary, by commission expires: _____