

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN JUVENILE COURT

COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE INTEREST OF \_\_\_\_\_, DOB \_\_\_\_\_, A CHILD.

_____	)	
(Petitioner)	)	Case No. _____
	)	
PETITIONER,	)	
Vs	)	
	)	_____
_____	)	
_____	)	
_____	)	
(Respondents)	)	
	)	
RESPONDENTS.	)	

1.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Petitioner)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Name of Petitioner)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, Zip Code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone Number)

**VERIFICATION**

\_\_\_\_\_ being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and says that I am the Petitioner in the above-entitled action; that I have read the Petition for \_\_\_\_\_ 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\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

State of: \_\_\_\_\_

County of: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed and sworn to before me on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
by \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Public or Clerk of Court)

If Notary, my commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVAL OF PETITION**

In accordance with NDCC § 27-20-20, I hereby certify that I have received and examined the foregoing Petition and Affidavit in support thereof and have determined that the filing of said Petition is in the best interests of the public and the child.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Juvenile Director/Designee

**ORDER**

Upon reading the foregoing, it is hereby Ordered, that the within Petition be filed and that a Summons issue thereon directing the Respondents to appear before this Court on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard, for hearing on said Petition, and if personal service of the Summons upon any Respondent is impractical or impossible, the Summons may be served by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested to the last reasonably ascertainable address of that Respondent, or by publication, as may be convenient.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Juvenile Court Judge/Judicial Referee

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR CAPTION AND SIGNATURE JUVENILE COURT VERIFIED PETITION FORM

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

As a self-represented individual, you are responsible for following the same laws, rules, and procedures as an attorney.

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.

**NOTE:** Petitions filed in juvenile court that are not filed by a state's attorney, must be reviewed and approved by the juvenile court director, the juvenile court, or other person authorized by the juvenile court. The petition must be in the best interest of the child and the public.

### Petition to Start a Juvenile Court Action

Petitions that will be filed to start a North Dakota Juvenile Court action must meet certain formatting and signature requirements.

If you decide to start an action in Juvenile Court, you may find this General-Use caption and signature verified petition template of interest as a starting point for creating your own legal document to start a Juvenile Court action.

### Laws and Rules Related to Juvenile Court Actions

Following are legal research starting points related to starting a Juvenile Court action. You will need to conduct additional legal research into your legal issue.

[Chapter 27-20 of the North Dakota Century Code](#) contains laws enacted by the North Dakota Legislative Assembly that apply in juvenile court actions.

The [North Dakota Rules of Juvenile Procedure](#) govern all juvenile court actions.

- **Rule 3 of the North Dakota Rules of Civil Procedure governs the content of petitions, including parties.**

The [North Dakota Rules of Evidence](#) govern in juvenile court actions, unless an exception applies from [Rule 1101](#) of the North Dakota Rules of Evidence.

See also, the [North Dakota Rules of Civil Procedure](#) and the [North Dakota Rules of Court](#). These rules may be used to fill in gaps in Juvenile Court process that Chapter 27-20 and the North Dakota Rules of Juvenile Procedure do not cover.

### **Definition of a “Child” for Juvenile Court Actions**

The child who is the focus of the juvenile court action must be **either**:

1. Unmarried and under the age of 18; **or**
2. Under the age of 20 and committed the delinquent act while under the age of 18.

### **Only Certain Types of Actions can be Brought in Juvenile Court**

Delinquency: A delinquent child is a child who has committed an act that is considered a crime and is in need of treatment or rehabilitation.

Unruly: An unruly child is a child who has committed an offense that only applies to a child, such as truancy, consuming or possessing alcohol, disobedience of parental commands, or using tobacco, and is in need of treatment or rehabilitation.

Deprivation: A deprived child is a child who is “without proper parental care or control necessary for the child’s physical, mental or emotional health, or morals, and the deprivation is not due primarily to the lack of financial means of the child’s parents, guardian or other custodian.”

Termination of Parental Rights: An order terminating parental rights of a parent terminates all the parent's rights and obligations with respect to the child and of the child to or through the parent arising from the parental relationship.

**This form is not a fillable form.** To create your legal document using this form, you have at least two options:

**Option One:** Print this form on 8 ½” x 11” paper and hand-write your legal document. Your hand-writing must be easily readable. Black ink is preferred.

**Option Two:** Copy and paste the Caption and Signature sections into a word processing program, for example, Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, Google Docs, or OpenOffice. Use this form and these instructions as your guide to format your legal document.

**Caption (top of form):**

- If you copied and pasted the Caption section into a word processing program, format your caption as close as you can to the Caption section of the form.
- Fill in the name of the County in North Dakota where the Juvenile Court action will be filed.
- Fill in the name of the Judicial District in North Dakota where the juvenile court action will be filed. (The County is within the Judicial District.) County and Judicial District information and maps are available at [www.ndcourts.gov](http://www.ndcourts.gov).
- Fill in the full name of the minor child and the minor child's date of birth.
- Fill in your full, legal name on the Petitioner line. The person who starts a juvenile court action with a petition is called the Petitioner.
- Fill in the Respondent's full, legal name on the Respondent line. The Respondent is the person against whom the petition is brought. There may be more than one Respondent, depending on the circumstances of the juvenile court action.
- Leave the case number blank. Before a case number is assigned, the petition will require review and approval for filing.
- Fill in the title of the document. For example, Petition for Deprivation.

**Write/Type Your Juvenile Court Petition:**

- Write or type your Juvenile Court petition in your own words.
- If you need to add additional pages, write or type on one side of the additional page only. Add the additional page or pages between the Caption page and the Signature page.

**Paragraph Numbering:**

- Each paragraph of your written or typed Juvenile Court petition must be numbered.

**Date and Signature:**

- The date and signature are at the end of your Juvenile Court petition.
- If you copied and pasted the Signature section into a word processing program, format the signature section as close as you can to the Signature section of the form.

- You, the self-represented Petitioner, date and sign the document.

**WARNING:** By signing your name you are telling the Juvenile 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 Juvenile Court, or if you are serving or filing this document for an improper purpose, the Juvenile Court could find you in contempt or you may be prosecuted for perjury.

- Fill in your printed name, address and telephone number.

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.

### **Verification and Notarization:**

Petitions to start a Juvenile Court action must be verified.

- Fill in the full legal name of the Petitioner.
- Fill in the title of the Petition.
- You, the self-represented Petitioner, sign and date the verification in front of a notary public or clerk of court.
- The notary public or clerk of court will witness your signature and sign the Notary Public lines.

### **Page Numbering:**

The pages of documents prepared for the juvenile court petition must be numbered.

- Number each page of the document. Page 1 is the Caption page.
- The last page of the document is the approval of petition page.

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

*\*\*\*The North Dakota Legal Self Help Center provides resources to people who represent themselves in civil matters in the North Dakota state courts. The information provided by the Center is not intended for legal advice but only a general guide to the civil court process. The Center cannot guarantee that all judges and courts will accept forms available through the Self Help Center. The Center is not responsible for any consequences that may result from the information provided. The information cannot replace the advice of competent legal counsel licensed in the state. Use at your own risk.\*\*\**