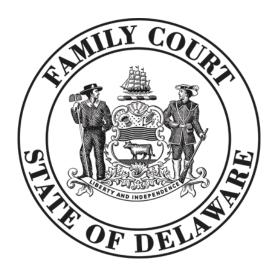
# MOTION INSTRUCTION PACKET



https://courts.state.de.us/family

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### MOTION PACKET

Use the **Motion Packet ONLY** if you are one of the following persons:

- ✓ A party to the action (a person named in the case); OR
- ✓ An interested party who wants to join in the case for a reason permitted by law. In other words, you were not named as a party (litigant) to the case but you believe you should be involved in the case. For example, you are the Guardian of a child and someone filed to terminate the parental rights of that child's parents. If you were not named as a party to the case, you might file a **Motion** so that you can be involved in the case.

If there is no case yet and you want to start a case, you need to file a petition. PLEASE NOTE! You CANNOT file a Motion if there is no petition pending with the Family Court.

### **HOW TO USE THE PACKET**

This packet contains general information about **Motions**, basic instructions on how to complete the Court forms you must file, and samples of the completed Court forms.

**ONLY FILE THE FORMS INCLUDED IN THE FORMS PACKET.** The forms in this **Instruction Packet** are just samples to help you understand how to fill out the real forms in the **FORMS PACKET**. Read the instructions and sample forms carefully before completing each form you must file. When you complete a form, write in blue or black ink **AND** write neatly.

Please look for the shaded written instructions and the following symbols throughout the packet. They will help guide you.



THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE FILED



FILL IN THE BLANKS OR WRITE INFORMATION HERE



YOU DO NOT HAVE TO TAKE THESE STEPS NOW



READ THIS SECTION CAREFULLY

### TIPS AND REMINDERS ...

- ✓ Remember who is the Movant and who is the Other Party.
  - The **MOVANT** is the person who files the Motion. This is true even if that person was the Respondent on the original Petition.
  - The **OTHER PARTY** is the person replying (responding) to the Motion.
- ✓ Remember that just because you fill out the forms correctly does not necessarily mean the Court will give you (grant) what you want. It is up to <u>you</u> on your motion form and possibly at the court hearing to prove why the Court should give you what you want.
- ✓ Representing yourself may take a lot of time, may be difficult and may be confusing. The Court will expect you to follow the same rules that attorneys must follow. If at any point throughout the Court process you are not sure about representing yourself, you should talk to an attorney.

- ✓ Please remember that COURT STAFF CANNOT GIVE YOU LEGAL ADVICE. Should you have a question about what options you have or what you should do, you should talk to an attorney. Just because you talk to an attorney does not necessarily mean that you must hire that attorney to represent you. Ask the attorney if he/she is willing to meet with you and answer your questions without having to hire that attorney for full representation. Before you meet with the attorney, ask what fees may be involved for such limited services.
- ✓ If you would like assistance finding an attorney, or to see if you qualify for free legal assistance, you can visit the Delaware Volunteer Legal Services website at https://delegalhelplink.org.
- ✓ <u>Always</u> bring your photo identification with you (such as your driver's license, or a state-issued photo identification card) whenever you get a Court form notarized.
- ✓ THERE IS A LOT OF PAPER IN A COURT CASE AND HAVING THE
  COURT MAKE YOU COPIES CAN BE VERY EXPENSIVE.

### PLEASE READ AND REMEMBER THESE IMPORTANT TIPS

### REMEMBER

- Keep a copy of every document and court paper.
- Keep all notes, documents and court papers together and organized in a folder with the most recent papers on top.
- Bring the folder with your papers with you every time you go to Court.
- When you file a document with the Court, <u>bring</u> the required number of copies of each paper and an extra copy for you to have "clocked-in." Keep the clocked-in copy <u>in your folder</u> so you have proof of the time and date you filed each document. You may make copies at the Resource and Self-Help Centers but there is a small fee.
- When you complete a document or form for filing with the Court, always include the full case name and file and petition numbers (if there are any).
- When you must mail something, we suggest that you use regular mail AND "certified mail, return receipt requested" so that you have proof that the other party received the envelope. If you cannot afford to pay for "certified mail" we suggest you get a "certificate of mailing" at the post office to prove that you mailed the envelope to the other party. You may purchase stamped envelopes at the Resource and Self-Help Centers and the Court will mail your Court papers for you by regular mail. You are responsible for certified mailing.

### **SECTION 1**

### STARTING THE MOTION PROCESS



You MUST file the ORIGINAL of each form below with the Court.

- Make a copy of each completed form for your records.
- ➤ Have your set of copies "clocked-in" for your file. Having a paper "clocked-in" means that the Court will stamp on the copy the time and date you filed your papers. Your clocked-in copy will serve as proof of the time and date you filed the paper.



You MUST MAIL to EACH party in the case an EXACT COPY of what you filed. Make a copy of each completed form for your records.

- See page 9 for more information and suggestions about mailing.

Each Other Party will have thirteen (13) days from the date they receive a copy of your motion to file their response with the Court. The Court will not consider your motion until that time has elapsed.

➤ Keep this in mind when filing your motion. For example, if you are filing a Motion for Continuance, you must file more than 13 days before your hearing date to allow for a response.

Motion Form (Form 191).

> Sample form found on page 13.

This sample form represents a Motion for Leave to Amend the Pleadings; however, there are many different types of motions that may be filed. Most motions can be filed using the generic Motion Form-191; however, some motions require that specific forms be used. An example of different types of motions is discussed in Section 3 starting on page 19.

- ➤ Only a party to the action (a person named on the underlying petition) or an interested party who has a legal reason to join the case may file a motion.
- You must name as the Other Party(ies) every person named on the underlying petition as a party to the case.
- Unlike a petition, the Court will not serve the motion for you. You must mail to each party an exact copy of what you filed. On the motion form, you will affirm that you placed a copy of the motion in the mail to each Other Party.
- ➤ You want to name your motion in such a way that it will be clear what you are asking the Court to do. An example of a Motion is on page 13. However, there is no limitation regarding the type or name of a motion you may file. Your motion should be tailored to the specific facts of your case and be specific about what you want the Court to do.
- When alleging facts within your motion, you want to be as specific as possible and provide the Court with all the information needed to make a decision. You must state the reason for your motion and the relief which you are seeking.
- ➤ It is up to the Court whether to hold a formal hearing based upon your motion. The Court may make a decision after just reading your Motion and the response. This is called making a decision "on the papers". Because of this, you want to include all the information you wish the Court to consider in your motion because you may not have a chance to present more information at a hearing.
- ➤ When writing down your allegations, you should list each point that you want to make in its own **numbered paragraph**. This will make it easier for the Court and the Other Party(ies) to

- understand your request. An example of numbered paragraphs can be found on the Sample Motion found at the end of this section.
- ➢ If you need more space to write, you may attach additional pages to the Motion. Be sure to state on the motion that you have attached more pages, so the Court and the Other Party(ies) will know to look for additional information.
- You must sign your Motion in the presence of a notary public or authorized Court staff.

### Remember!

You are swearing that the statements made in your motion are true and correct to the best of your knowledge.

You are accountable for what is stated in your motion.

### Notice of Motion Form (Form 192).

- > Sample form found on page 14.
- ➤ The Notice of Motion Form must be mailed to the Other Party(ies) along with a copy of your Motion. The Notice of Motion informs the Other Party(ies) that a motion has been filed and that they have 10 days from the date they are served to respond.

### Order Form (Form 193).

- > Sample form found on page 15.
- On the Order Form, you must write the relief which you are seeking.
- ➤ It is possible that the Judge or Commissioner will sign the Order that you drafted. Therefore, it is very important to write on the Order exactly what you want to happen.

- ➤ The Judge or Commissioner may sign this Order, make changes to it or draft a new Order completely.
- ➤ The Order Form must be mailed to the Other Party(ies) along with a copy of your Motion and the Notice of Motion Form.

### Information Sheet Form (Form 240).

- Sample form found on page 16.
- ➤ This form provides the Court with general information about the parties that allows the Court to adequately notify the parties about upcoming proceedings and to maintain up-to-date records.



BE AS SPECIFIC AND DETAILED AS POSSIBLE WHEN WRITING YOUR MOTION. Remember, the Court may make a decision based on the filings WITHOUT having a Court Hearing.

### **Filing Your Motion**

File the forms at the Family Court in the County where the underlying petition has been heard or filed.

- ➤ In Kent and Sussex Counties, you may file your papers at the Resource Centers on the first floor of the Family Court buildings.
- ➤ In New Castle County, you may file your papers at the Resource Center on Lower Level 1 of the Leonard L Williams Justice Center or, IF, you have all of the forms completed, you do NOT have any questions, you have made the necessary copies and you do NOT need any papers notarized, you may file your papers at the Central Filing and Payment Center located on the first floor of the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center. There is no staff assistance at the Central Filing and Payment Center.
- ➤ If you file your papers by mail, the addresses for each courthouse are available on the Family Court website. The Court does NOT accept filings that are faxed.

### **FILING BY EMAIL**

You may also file your motion and required forms by email. To file by email, you must send the motion and required forms to the appropriate case type email address:

- Custody and Visitation Cases: FC\_CustodyVisitation@delaware.gov
- Divorce and Ancillary Cases: FC\_DivorceAncillary@delaware.gov
- Protection from Abuse Cases: FC PFA@delaware.gov
- Guardianship Cases: FC\_Guardianship@delaware.gov
- Child Support Cases: FC ChildSupport@delaware.gov
- Termination of Parental Rights, Adoption, and Dependency/Neglect Cases: FC\_CDN\_TPR\_Adoption@delaware.gov
- Adult and Juvenile Expungement Cases: FC\_Expungement@delaware.gov
- Substantiation Cases: FC Substantiations@delaware.gov
- Minor Name Change Cases: FC MNC@delaware.gov

Form more information on filing by email, please review the Civil Filing by Email FAQ: https://courts.delaware.gov/family/faqs.

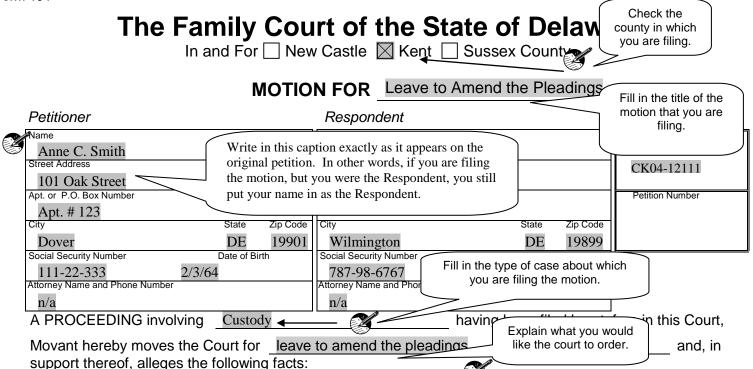
A filing fee is charged for any Motion filed under Family Court Rule of Civil Procedure 60(b) and a Motion to Reopen. All other motions may be filed free of charge. To find out what the filing fee is, you can look at the Family Court website or go to the Family Court Resource Centers. If filing in person, the filing fee can be paid in cash, by credit card, by debit card, by check or by money order made payable to "Family Court". If you are filing by mail, you may only pay by check or money order. If you are filing by email, you may only pay by credit card. Family Court staff will call you for credit card information. It is important that you include your phone number in the email communication to the Court. FAMILY COURT WILL NOT ACCEPT YOUR PAPERS WITHOUT THE FILING FEE.

### SERVICE OF PROCESS

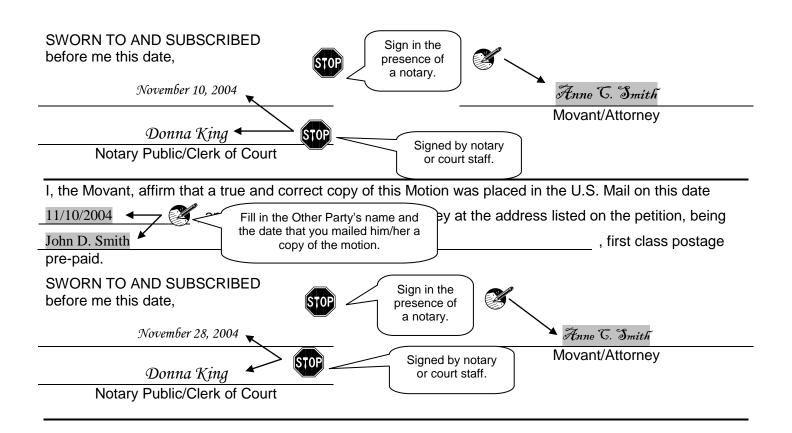
<u>Each</u> Party must receive a copy of the Motion. The delivery of your Motion and any other forms you file is called **Service of Process**. Motions are served by mail. You, the movant, must send an exact copy of your Motion, Notice of Motion and Order to the Other Party(ies). You may do so by first class mail or certified mail. On the motion itself, you will certify that you have placed a copy of your Motion in the U.S. Mail.

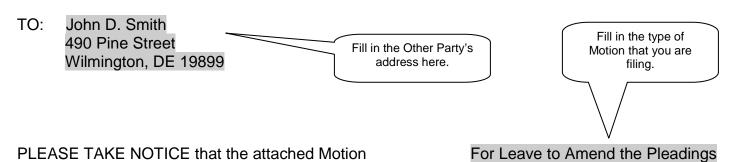
This packet is intended to be a guideline and may not contain the most recent version of each form. Please obtain forms from the Resource Center or at this link: https://courts.delaware.gov/family.

❖ Each sample form may list information from individual cases and not all parties will match.

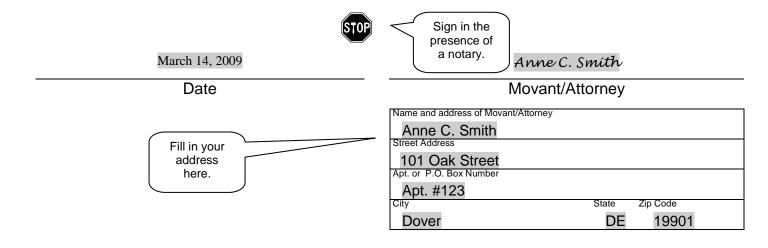


- 1) On my Petition for Custody, filed December 12, 2009, I mistakenly left out information regarding an incident of domestic violence that occurred between me and the Respondent.
- 2) I have attached an amended version of my Petition to this Motion.
- 3) I am asking that the Court allow me to amend my original Petition and replace it with the Petition attached.





is herewith presented to the Court for consideration. If you are opposed to this motion, you must file a written response with the Court within ten (10) days of the service of this motion. If no response is timely filed, the motion may be decided without further opportunity for you to be heard on the matter. Family Court Rules, Rule 7(b)(2).



Other

# The Family Court of the State of Delaw

Check the county in which you are filing.

In and For  $\square$  New Castle  $\boxtimes$  Kent  $\square$  Sussex County Anne C. Smith Write in this caption exactly as it appears on the Petitioner CK04-12111 original petition. In other words, if you are filing ٧. the motion, but you were the Respondent, you still 09-00898 No.: put your name in as the Respondent. John D. Smith Respondent Fill in your name here. ORDER Having considered the request of the movant, Anne C. Smith, IT IS SO ORDERED, this date: Leave this blank for the Hearing Officer to complete. That the Movant's Motion for Leave to Amend the Pleadings is grante Fill in the relief that you are seeking here. Remember that it is possible the Hearing Officer will sign this form that you draft. Therefore it is important to write exactly what you want to happen. The Hearing Officer may sign this Order, make changes to it or draft a new Order completely. Leave this blank for the Hearing Officer to sign. Judge/Commissioner CC: Petitioner Respondent ☐ Petitioner Attorney ☐ Respondent Attorney □ DAG □PD ☐ Fiscal Services ☐ DCSS ☐ FC.Appointed.Attorneys@state.de.us Fill in the date you file the form.

# The Family Court of the State of Delaware INFORMATION SHEET - PLEASE PRINT If you

_ 4	
	,
-200	

If you know your case file number, put

Date	e: <u>12/13/2017</u>	7	OF DFile N	No.: <u>CN</u>	17-99999		it; if not, l	eave blank
Please fill in A to K pertain	ing to you the App	licant/Pe	titioner. (For	additional p	etitioners u	se addition	onal shee	ts)
A. Name: Anne C. Smit	h	Each P separat	etitioner must te form	t complete a				
B. Address: 101 O	ak Street, Apartme	ent #123	3					
City/State/Zip: Dover	, DE 19901							
C. Phone – Home: (302	2) 555-1111	Wo	ork: (302)	555-9999	Cell:	(302)	999-888	8
D. Employer & Address:	ABC Child Car	e Center	r					
	500 Pine Stree	t						
	Dover, DE 199	04						
Hours/Shift 7:	30 to 4:30 Monday	y-Friday						
•	000-00-0000		F. Dat	e of Birth:	2/3/1986			
G. Place of Birth (City & S	State): Wilmingto	n, DE						
H. Sex: F Race:	White Heigh	t: <u>5'</u>	4" Weight	135 lbs	_ Hair:	Blond	Eyes:	Brown
	lone	0040	11l. A					
I. Type of motor vehicle o	·	2010	Honda Accor				0/0/0000	
	9999999		State of Issue	ue: DE	_ Expiratio	n Date:	2/3/2020	)
<ul><li>K. Your relationship to the</li><li>L. Attorney: None</li></ul>	e Detendant/Respo	ondent:		Entering you authorizes th				h.,
				email. If you				
				eceive notic			, , ,	
✓ I authorize Family C	ourt to deliver cou	rt orders	In my case(s	) to my ema	ail address	instead c	of to my m	nailing
address. My email a	address is: Anne	e.C.Smit	h@example.d	com	•		-	_
*Please note that if you pring an encrypted email via For information on how to <a href="https://judicial.state.de.us.">https://judicial.state.de.us.</a>	Egress to the ema	ail addres d emails	ss provided a through Egre	nd will not b ss, please v	e mailed to risit			
Please fill or	ut the information	n below	in reference	to the chile	d(ren) who	are invo	olved.	
1 10000 1111 0					<u> </u>			
Children								
Name	Relationship	Sex	Race	D.O.B.	S	SN	Birth	nplace
							City	& State



987-65-4321 Douglas A. Harding Μ White 10/14/2012 Newark, DE Nephew

16 **OVER** 

	Please fill in L to Y pertaining to the Defendant/Respondent. (For additional respondents use additional sheets)
	M. Defendant/Respondent is a: (Check One) ADULT JUVENILE
Ž	N. Name Michelle Jones
	You must complete a separate form for each Respondent.
Ø	City/State/Zip: Dover, DE 19901
	P. Phone – Home: (302) 333-3333 Work: (302) 222-2222 Cell: (302) 111-1111
	Q. Employer & Address: XYZ Corporation
	67 Walnut Avenue
	Dover, DE 19901
	Hours/Shift 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday-Friday
	R. Social Security No.: 888-88-8888 S. Date of Birth: 7/13/1991
Ž	T. Place of Birth (City & State): Wilmington, DE
Ĭ	U. Relationship to Child: Not Applicable Mother Father Relative Non-Relative
	Other (Please Describe)
	v. Sex: F Race: White Height: 5'4" Weight: 140 lbs Hair: Black Eyes: Brown
	, Marks/Scars/Tattoos: Tattoo of a heart on right shoulder
	W. Driver's License X. Type of vehicle operated by
	State & No.: DE 1111111 Defendant/Respondent: 2009 Chevy Impala
	Y. Parent's Name (if a juvenile):
S	Z. Time when Respondent is usually home: 7:00 PM to 6:30 AM, Monday-Friday; mornings on weekends
-	List places where the Respondent spends time other than at home or
	AA. Additional information about Respondent that may aid the process server in locating him/her to serve petition:
<b>7</b>	If you are unable to locate the Respondent at her place of residence or her place of employment, she spends a lot of time at her brother's house, which is located at 775 Spruce Lane, Dover, DE 19901.
	of time at her brother's house, which is located at 775 Spruce Lane, Dover, DE 19901.
	Write directions to each address listed on
	this form to make sure that the process
	server can locate the Respondent.
=	
	DIRECTIONS TO RESPONDENT'S RESIDENCE  Home: Go West on 8th Street until you reach Pine Street. Turn right and go 3 and one-half blocks. The
9	Respondent's house is on the right and is white with blue shutters.
	Work: Go North on Route 13 and take the first right onto Cherry Drive. Go about a mile and a half and turn left onto Walnut Avenue. XYZ Corporation is on your left.
	Brother's Residence: Go two blocks past Respondent's home to 10th Street. Turn left and go one block to Spruce
	Lane. Turn right. It is the second house on the right. The house is green.

# SECTION 2 THE COURT'S DECISION

Depending upon the type of **Motion** you file, the Judge or Commissioner may decide whether or not to grant your **Motion** based upon the papers filed. The Judge or Commissioner's decision will be written in a **Court Order**. After the decision is made, you will receive the **Court Order** in the mail.

Sometimes, before making the decision, the Court will schedule a Court Hearing on your **Motion**. If the Court **DOES** schedule a Court Hearing on your **Motion**, you and the Other Party(ies) to your **Motion** will each be given an opportunity at the Court Hearing to prove why the Court should or should not grant your **Motion**.

During the Court Hearing, the Court must follow a certain procedure. It is important that you are familiar with this procedure so that you know what you are allowed to do, when you are allowed to talk, and how to tell your side of the story.

Family Court has developed an instructional packet entitled, "How to Prepare for Your Court Hearing." This packet explains generally what the Court Hearing procedure is and should answer many of the questions you have about the procedure. You may find this packet on the Family Court website or in the Resource Center located at the Courthouse in each county.

If the Court schedules a Court Hearing, the Judge or Commissioner will either make his/her decision at the end of the Court Hearing or some time after the Court Hearing. Again, you will receive the **Court Order** in the mail.

### **SECTION 3**

### **TYPES OF MOTIONS**

There are many reasons why you may want to file a Motion. Below are examples of the most commonly filed Motions, but there are other Motions you may file depending upon your situation and your case. Remember to **BE REALISTIC WHEN DECIDING TO FILE A MOTION**, as you should in all parts of your case. You should have a good legal reason to file your Motion. The Court may penalize a person who files meaningless Motions, particularly when the reason for filing a Motion is to harass or create an undue hardship to the other side of the case.

### REMEMBER!

Most motions can be filed using the Generic Motion Packet that includes forms 191-193; the Motion (Form 191), the Notice of Motion (Form 192) and the Order (Form 193). Remember, all three forms **must** be filed together, along with the Information Sheet (Form 240), when using the generic Motion Form 191.

Some motions require that specific forms be used. A complete list of motions requiring specific forms are found at the end of this section.

### 1. <u>Amend the Pleadings</u> (Motion for Leave to Amend the Pleadings)

\*Use generic Motion Form 191-193. Sample found on pages 13-15.

If you forgot to state something in a pleading (such as a **Petition** or **Answer**) that you already filed, you made a mistake in a filed pleading, or you want to change something written on a filed pleading, you may file a **Motion for Leave to Amend the Pleadings**. In this Motion, you would write what you want to add, or what the mistake is and how you want it corrected, or what you want to change and how you want to change it. It is usually a good idea to write the reason why the original filing was not complete or correct.

To make the process move more quickly, in this situation, you might want to file the actual **Amended Petition** (the Petition with the changes) **WITH** the **Motion for Leave to Amend the Pleadings.** 

### 2. Reargue (Motion for Re-argument)

\* Use generic Motion Form 191-193. Sample found on pages 13-15.

If you believe the Judge or Commissioner misinterpreted the law as to the facts of your case or a specific aspect of your case **OR** that the Judge or Commissioner overlooked a fact that you presented in Court and such fact would have changed the Judge or Commissioner's decision, you may file a **Motion for Re-argument**. In the **Motion for Re-argument**, you would ask the Judge or Commissioner who made the decision if you may reargue, before the same Judge or Commissioner, your position or specific aspect of your case you believe was misinterpreted or overlooked.

**Note!** A Motion for Re-argument is not the same as a Request for Review of Commissioner's Order or an Appeal of a Judge's Order. In a Motion for Re-argument, you are requesting to reargue only a specific aspect of the case.

-A Motion for Re-argument does "stop the clock" on your time for appeal. If your Motion is unsuccessful, your appeal time would start from the date your motion is denied.

### 3. Consolidate (Motion to Consolidate)

\*Use generic Motion Form 191-193. Sample found on pages 13-15.

In a **Motion to Consolidate**, you ask the Court to put two or more cases or issues together to be decided. For example, if both parents filed **Petition for Custody** against the other or if one parent filed a separate **Petition for Custody** and the other parent filed a **Petition for Visitation**, you may want to ask if the Court can decide these two Petitions at the same time. You would do so by filing a **Motion to Consolidate**. In this Motion, you would write the names, case numbers and petition numbers of the cases you want combined, why such cases are so similar, and why it would be in the best interest of the Court and the parties if the Court decided them at the same time.

### 4. <u>Discovery</u> (Motion for Discovery)

\*Use generic Motion Form 191-193. Sample found on pages 13-15.

In a **Motion for Discovery**, you may ask the Court to help you get the information you need for your case. **Discovery** information can come from the other side, or from people and places outside of the case, such as schools, companies, or doctors. In your Motion, you should state what information you need and why you need it. Before filing this Motion, you should review the Family Court Rules of Civil Procedure 26-37. These rules explain what you may and may not ask for in your Motion for Discovery.

### 5. <u>Extension of Time</u> (Motion for Enlargement of Time)

\*Use generic Motion Form 191-193. Sample found on pages 13-15.

In a **Motion for Enlargement of Time**, you may ask the Court for more time (an extension) in which to complete something that is required of you. For example, if you have an answer due but you need more time, you can ask the Court for additional time. You should file this **Motion AS SOON AS** you find out that you need more time. The Court will not always grant this **Motion** because the time lines provided in the Rules are structured to give litigants enough time to meet requirements. Furthermore, some Rules prohibit the Court from granting more time in certain situations.

- If the deadline comes before the Court rules on your Motion, you must assume that the Motion is denied and meet the requirement on the original deadline.

### 6. Parenting Classes (Motion to Waive Parenting Classes)

\*Use generic Motion Form 191-193. Sample found on pages 13-15.

If you have a case that requires you to complete **Education Seminars for Divorcing and Separating Parents** and **you have already completed** one of the approved seminars, you may file a **Motion to Waive Parenting Classes.** In this Motion, you may ask the Court if your completed seminar(s) satisfy this requirement without your having to complete the seminar(s) again. With this Motion, attach a <u>certified</u> copy of your **Certificate of Completion** of the seminar you completed. If it is an out-of-state seminar, **ALSO** attach a copy of the course outline.

### 7. Reopen (Motion to Reopen)

\*Use generic Motion Form 191-193. Sample found on pages 13-15.

In a **Motion to Reopen**, you ask the Court to look again at a case that was already closed (decided). Common reasons for filing a Motion to Reopen may include newly discovered evidence, clerical mistakes, or mathematical errors in the judgment.

### 8. <u>Sanctions</u> (Motion for Sanctions)

\*Use generic Motion Form 191-193. Sample found on pages 13-15.

In a **Motion for Sanctions**, you ask the Court to penalize (punish) the other side for legally inappropriate actions taken in the case. Examples of sanctions include posting bond, being fined, and jail time.

### 9. Change of County (Motion for Change of Venue)

\*Use generic Motion Form 191-193. Sample found on pages 13-15.

In a **Motion for a Change of Venue**, you ask the Court to move your case to a different county. For instance, if this is a Custody case and you and the children involved live in a different county from where the case was filed, you might file a **Motion for a Change of Venue**. Also, if some of the parties move while the case is going on, or if there are other parts of the case being decided in another county, you might file this Motion. In the Motion you would write the county to which you want your case moved and why your case should be moved.

### 10. Continuance (Motion for Continuance)

\*Filing a motion for Continuance of a Court proceeding is an example of a motion that requires a specific form. Use Form-196 Motion for Continuance. Sample found on pages 25-27

\*Please note a request to have a **mediation** continued should **not** be made by Motion. Instead, you should use Request for Continuance of Mediation (Form 548), which will be considered by the mediator.

If for some legal reason you cannot attend a Court Proceeding other than a mediation, you may file a **Motion for Continuance.** You should file this Motion **AS SOON AS YOU LEARN** you cannot attend. On this Motion you must write:

- 1) the original filing date of the petition
- 2) the number of times the case has been scheduled for a hearing previously,
- 3) why you cannot attend the Court Proceeding, and
- 4) what the Other Party's position is regarding the continuance.

Again, whenever you file a **Motion for Continuance**, you must file as soon as you learn of the conflict. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE**, if possible. Because of the seriousness of your case, the Court will expect you to find a way to attend Court Proceedings. The Court will balance your interests in allowing the delay against the interests of the other parties involved in having the matter heard without delay. Therefore, just because you believe you have a good reason to have more time or to reschedule does not necessarily mean that you have a good **legal** reason or that the Court will grant your request. Make sure to find out how the Court decided your Motion before you do not attend the Court Proceeding. If the Court denied your Motion for Continuance, you must attend the Court Proceeding.

### The Court provides a Form of Motion for the following matters:

1.	99P	Alternative Dispute Resolution
2.	98P	Alternative Dispute Resolution Practioner
3.	650	Motion and Affidavit for Emergency Ex Parte Order
4.	652	Motion and Affidavit for Interim Relief
5.	651	Motion and Affidavit for Priority Scheduling
6.	198DN	Motion and Affidavit to be found Indigent and Request for
		Appointment of an Attorney in Dependency Neglect Proceedings
7.	194	Motion for Appointment of a Guardian Ad Litem for a Minor Litigant
8.	470	Motion for Confidential Address
9.	457	Motion for Contempt of Order of PFA
10.	196	Motion for Continuance
11.	197	Motion for Dismissal
12.	261	Motion for Temporary Visitation
13.	253	Motion to Contest an Administrative Adjustment
14.	456	Motion to Modify, Extend or Rescind Order of Protection from Abuse
15.	191SO	RMotion to Review Sex Offender Registration
16.	254	Motion to Revoke Child Support

Check the county in which you are filing.

# The Family Court of the State of SeraWare In and For New Castle Kent Sussex County

### MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE

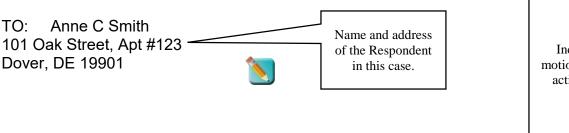
Petitioner		Respondent			
Name Patricia Smith Street Address 343 West Road Apt. or P.O. Box Number	original petition the motion, but	ption exactly as it app i. In other words, if y you were the Respon n as the Respondent.	ou are filing dent, you still		File Number  CN08-00999  Petition Number
City	State Zip Code DE 19901			State Zip Code	08-00111
Date of Birth 3/17/1975 Attorney Name and Phone Number n/a		Date of Birth  8/29/1975  Attorney Name and Phor	you are fi	of case about whi	ch
A PROCEEDING involving	Custody	11/4	having be	een filed hereto	fore in this Court
Movant hereby moves the Co	ourt for a Conti	nuance and, in sı	apport thereof, a	alleges the follo	owing facts: 🌠
<ol> <li>I cannot attend the surgery on the sar</li> </ol>		ding for the follov	/ing reasons:	My daughter	is scheduled for
2. I learned that I cou	uld not attend t	he Court Proceed	ling on the follo	wing date:	October 2, 2009
<ol> <li>I made the following the second se</li></ol>					
<ul><li>4. I have contacted t Position: Respor surgery as well.</li><li>5. This case has been supported to the position of the</li></ul>	ndent is in agre	eement with a cor		would like to b	
SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIB before me this date, October 9, 2009		Sign in the presence of a notary.		Patricia Sr	nith
Donna King Notary Public/Clerk o	f Court		ed by notary court staff.	Movant/Atto	rney
I, the Movant, affirm that a tru	ue and correct	copy of this Motio	n was placed in	n the U.S. Mail	on this date
October 9, 2009 , and	sent to the oth	er party or attorn	ey at the addres	ss listed on the	petition, being
	lain Street Dov	er, DE 19901		, first	class postage
pre-paid.  SWORN TO AND SUBSCRII before me this date,  October 9, 2009	_ presen _ a nota	ce of		Patricia Sr	nith
		_		Movant/Atto	rney
Donna King Notary Public/Clerk o	f Court	s	igned by notary or court staff.		

### The Family Court of the State of Delaware

In and For 
New Castle 
Kent 
Sussex County

	169		
John D Smith	,		
Petitioner	)	File No.:	CK04-12111
V.	)		
	)	Petition No.:	04-42301
Anne C. Smith	, )		
Respondent	)		
	)		
	)		

### **NOTICE OF MOTION**

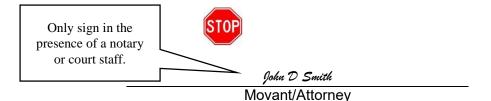


Indicate here what your motion is pertaining to. What action are you requesting from the Court?



PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the attached Motion for Continuance, Dismissal, Visitation, ....... is herewith presented to the Court for consideration. If you are opposed to this motion, you must file a written response with the Court within ten (10) days of the service of this motion. If no response is timely filed, the motion may be decided without further opportunity for you to be heard on the matter. Family Court Rules, Rule 7(b)(2).

Dated: March 4, 2014



Name and address of Movant or Attorney
John D Smith
Street Address (including Apt)
490 Pine Street
P.O. Box Number
City/State/ Zip Code
Wilmington, DE 19801

Check the county in which you are filing.		
you die ming.		
John D. Smith  Petitioner  , )	File No.:	CK14-12111
v. )	Petition No.:	
Anne C. Smith , ) Respondent )	In Re: Visita	ation, Custody, Ancillaries
) Fill in your name.		Indicate here what the proceeding was in reference to.
ORDER		reference to:
Having considered the request of the movant, John D	Smith	
Traving considered the request of the movant,	. Onniun,	
IT IS SO ORDERED, this date:		
That	_	icer will fill in the er is approved.
Fill in the relief that you are seeking here. Remember that it is possible the Hearing Officer will sign this form that you draft; therefore, it is important to write exactly what you want to happen.		
The Hearing Officer may sign this Order, make changes to it, or dra a new Order completely.	ft	
		s blank for the Officer to sign.
	Judge/Co	ommissioner
CC: Petitioner Respondent Petitioner Attorney  PD PS DCS  Other	☐ Respondent Att	corney