FL-300-INFO Information Sheet for Request for Order

1 USE *Request for Order* (form FL-300):

- To schedule a court hearing and ask the court to make new orders or to change orders in your case.
- When *Restraining Order After Hearing* (form DV-130) has expired, and you want to change the orders that are still in effect (examples: child custody, visitation (parenting time), child support, and other orders).
- To change or end *Juvenile Restraining Order After Hearing* (form JV-255) when the case is closed (dismissed) and the order was granted under the Code of Civil Procedure.

2 DO NOT USE *Request for Order* (form FL-300):

- To ask for a restraining order against your spouse or domestic partner, a former spouse or domestic partner, or someone you have a child with. Read *How to Ask for a Temporary Restraining Order* (form DV-505-INFO).
- To ask to change or end a *Restraining Order After Hearing* granted under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, including form DV-130 and form JV-255 in a juvenile case. For more information, read *How Do I Ask to Change or End a Domestic Violence Restraining Order?* (form DV-300-INFO).
- Before you have filed a Petition to start your family law case (form FL-300 may be filed with the Petition).
- If you and the other party have an agreement. For information about how to write up your agreement, get it approved by the court, and filed in your case, see selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/family-law/agreements, speak with an attorney, or get help at your court's self-help center or family law facilitator's office.
- When specific Judicial Council forms must be used to ask the court for other orders. For example, to askfor an order for contempt, use form FL-410; to set aside a child support order, use form FL-360 or form FL-640; to set aside a voluntary declaration of paternity, use form FL-280.

3 Forms checklist

a. Form FL-300, *Request for Order,* is the basic form you need to file with the court. Depending on your request, you may need the forms listed in items b through h, below:

b. To request child custody or visitation (parenting time) orders, you may need to complete some of these forms:
- ☐ FL-105, *Declaration Under Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act*
- ☐ FL-311, *Child Custody and Visitation (Parenting Time) Application Attachment*
- ☐ FL-312, *Request for Child Abduction Prevention Orders*
- ☐ FL-341(C), *Children's Holiday Schedule Attachment*
- ☐ FL-341(D), *Additional Provisions—Physical Custody Attachment*
- ☐ FL-341(E), *Joint Legal Custody Attachment*

c. If you want child support, you need this form:
- ☐ A current FL-150, *Income and Expense Declaration*. You may use form FL-155, *Financial Statement (Simplified)*, instead of form FL-150 if you meet the requirements listed on page 2 of form FL-155.

d. If you want spousal or partner support or orders about your finances, you may need or want to use these forms:
- ☐ A current FL-150, *Income and Expense Declaration*
- ☐ FL-157, *Spousal or Partner Support Declaration Attachment*

e. If you want attorney's fees and costs, you need these forms:*
- ☐ A current FL-150, *Income and Expense Declaration*
- ☐ FL-319, *Request for Attorney's Fees and Costs Attachment* (or provide the information in a declaration)
- ☐ FL-158, *Supporting Declaration for Attorney's Fees and Costs* (or provide the information in a declaration)

(*The above forms are not required when asking for attorney's fees and costs under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act.)

f. To request temporary emergency (ex parte) orders, you need these forms:
- ☐ FL-305, *Temporary Emergency Orders*, to serve as the proposed temporary emergency orders.
- ☐ Your declaration describing how and when you gave notice about the request for temporary emergency orders. You may use form FL-303, *Declaration Regarding Notice and Service of Request for Temporary Emergency (Ex Parte) Orders*.
- ☐ Other forms required by local courts. See item 9 on page 3 of this form for more information.

g. If you plan to have witnesses testify at the hearing, you may want to use:
- ☐ FL-321, *Witness List*

h. If you want to request a separate trial (bifurcation) on an issue, you need form:
- ☐ FL-315, *Request or Response to Request for Separate Trial*

4 Complete form FL-300 (Page 1)

Caption: Complete the top part with your name, address, and telephone number. Below that, fill in the court's address.

Write the name of the Petitioner, Respondent, or Other Parent/Party. (You must use the party names as they appear in the petition.)

In the next section, check "CHANGE" if you want to change an existing order. Check "TEMPORARY EMERGENCY (EX PARTE) ORDER" if you are asking that the court make emergency orders that will be effective until the hearing date.

Then, check the boxes that apply to the orders you are requesting. Finally, in the box on the right, write your case number.

Item 1: List the name(s) of the other person(s) in your case who will receive your request. In some cases, this might include a grandparent who is joined as a party in the case, a local child support agency, or a lawyer who represents a child in the case.

Item 2: Leave this blank. The court clerk will fill in the date, time, and location of the hearing.

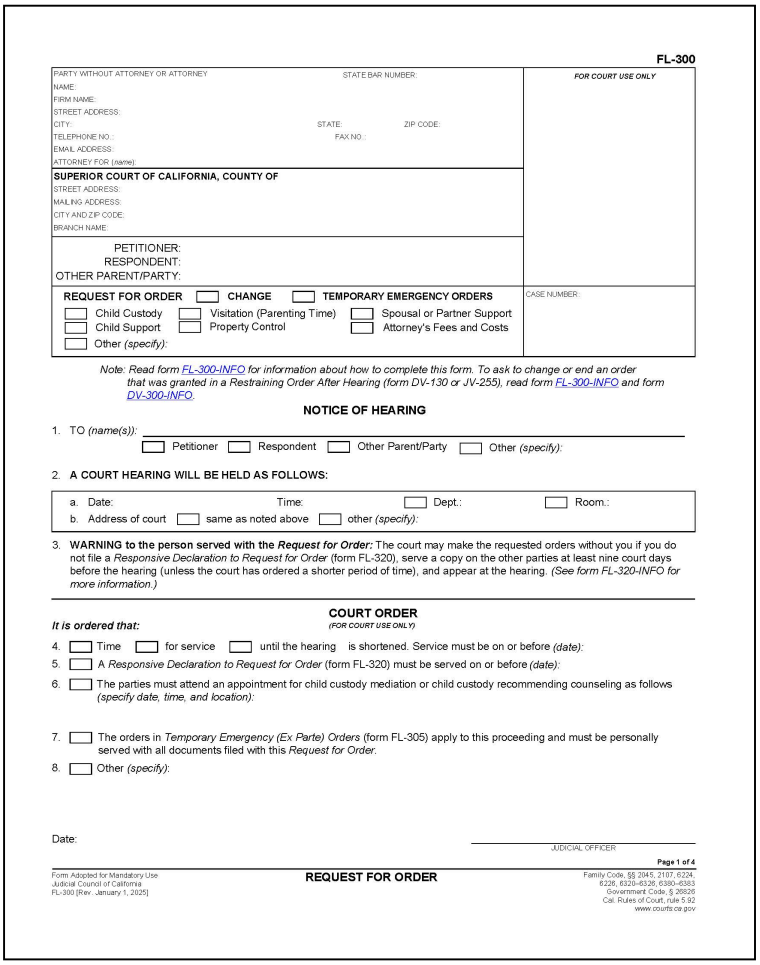
Item 3: This is a notice to all other parties.

Items 4–5: Leave these blank. The court will complete them if the orders are granted.

Item 6: In some counties, the court clerk will check item 6 and provide the details for your required child custody mediation or recommending counseling appointment. Other courts require the party or the party's lawyer to make the appointment and then complete item 6 before filing form FL-300.

Ask your court's Family Law Facilitator or Self-Help Center to find out what your court requires.

Items 7–8: Leave these blank. The court will complete them, if needed.



FL-300

PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY OR ATTORNEY — STATE BAR NUMBER: — FOR COURT USE ONLY
NAME:
FIRM NAME:
STREET ADDRESS:
CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE:
TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.:
EMAIL ADDRESS:
ATTORNEY FOR (name):

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF
STREET ADDRESS:
MAILING ADDRESS:
CITY AND ZIP CODE:
BRANCH NAME:

PETITIONER:
RESPONDENT:
OTHER PARENT/PARTY:

REQUEST FOR ORDER ☐ CHANGE ☐ TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ORDERS — CASE NUMBER:
☐ Child Custody ☐ Visitation (Parenting Time) ☐ Spousal or Partner Support
☐ Child Support ☐ Property Control ☐ Attorney's Fees and Costs
☐ Other (specify):

Note: Read form FL-300-INFO for information about how to complete this form. To ask to change or end an order that was granted in a Restraining Order After Hearing (form DV-130 or JV-255), read form FL-300-INFO and form DV-300-INFO.

NOTICE OF HEARING

1. TO *(name(s))*: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent ☐ Other Parent/Party ☐ Other *(specify)*:
2. **A COURT HEARING WILL BE HELD AS FOLLOWS:**
   a. Date: Time: ☐ Dept.: ☐ Room.:
   b. Address of court ☐ same as noted above ☐ other *(specify)*:
3. **WARNING to the person served with the *Request for Order*:** The court may make the requested orders without you if you do not file a *Responsive Declaration to Request for Order* (form FL-320), serve a copy on the other parties at least nine court days before the hearing (unless the court has ordered a shorter period of time), and appear at the hearing. *(See form FL-320-INFO for more information.)*

COURT ORDER
(FOR COURT USE ONLY)

It is ordered that:

4. ☐ Time ☐ for service ☐ until the hearing is shortened. Service must be on or before *(date)*:
5. ☐ A *Responsive Declaration to Request for Order* (form FL-320) must be served on or before *(date)*:
6. ☐ The parties must attend an appointment for child custody mediation or child custody recommending counseling as follows *(specify date, time, and location)*:
7. ☐ The orders in *Temporary Emergency (Ex Parte) Orders* (form FL-305) apply to this proceeding and must be personally served with all documents filed with this *Request for Order*.
8. ☐ Other *(specify)*:

Date: JUDICIAL OFFICER

Page 1 of 4

Form Adopted for Mandatory Use, Judicial Council of California, FL-300 [Rev. January 1, 2025] — **REQUEST FOR ORDER** — Family Code, §§ 2045, 2107, 6224, 6226, 6320–6326, 6380–6383; Government Code, § 26826; Cal. Rules of Court, rule 5.92; www.courts.ca.gov

5 Complete form FL-300 (pages 2–4)

6 Complete additional forms and make copies

Complete any additional forms that you need to file with the *Request for Order*. Make at least two copies of your full packet.

7 File your documents

Give your paperwork and the copies you made to the court clerk to process. You may take them to the clerk's office in person, mail them, or, in some counties, you can e-file them.

The clerk will keep the original and give you back the copies you made with a court date and time stamped on the first page of the *Request for Order*. The procedure may be different in some courts if you are requesting temporary emergency orders.

8 Pay filing fees

A fee is due at the time of filing.

If you cannot afford to pay the filing fee, and you do not already have a valid fee waiver order in this case, you can ask the court to waive the fee by completing and filing form FW-001, *Request to Waive Court Fees*, and form FW-003, *Order on Court Fee Waiver*.

9 Temporary Emergency (Ex Parte) Orders

(nondomestic violence restraining orders)

Courts can make temporary orders in your family law case to respond to emergencies that cannot wait to be heard on the court's regular hearing calendar.

The emergency must involve an immediate or irreparable harm to a party or children in the case, or an immediate loss or damage to property.

Under Family Code section 3064, "immediate harm to a child" includes, but is not limited to, a child:

- *Whose parent has committed acts of domestic violence; or*
- *Who is a victim of sexual abuse.*

When deciding whether there is immediate harm to a child, the court will consider whether a parent has illegal access to firearms or ammunition.

To request these orders:

- Complete form FL-300. Describe the emergency and explain why you need the temporary emergency orders before the hearing.
- Complete form FL-305 to serve as your proposed temporary orders.
- Include a declaration describing how and when you notified the other parties (or why you could not give notice) about your request and the hearing (see form FL-303).
- Complete forms required by local court rules.
- Follow your court's local procedures for reserving the day for the hearing, submitting your paperwork, and paying filing fees.

10 General information about "service"

"Service" is the act of giving your legal papers to all persons named as parties in the case so that they know what orders you are asking for and have information about the hearing.

If the other parties are NOT properly served, the judge cannot make the orders you requested on the date of the hearing.

11 Serve the Request for Order, blank forms

The other party must be "served" with a:

- Copy of the *Request for Order* and all the other forms and attachments filed with the court clerk.
- Copy of temporary emergency orders granted.
- Blank form FL-320, *Responsive Declaration to Request for Order*.
- Blank form FL-150, *Income and Expense Declaration* (if you served form FL-150 or FL-155).

12 Who can be a "server"

You cannot serve the papers. Have someone else (who is at least 18 years old) do it. The server can be a friend, a relative who is not involved in your case, a sheriff, or a professional process server.

13 "Personal service"

Personal service means that your server walks up to each person to be served, makes sure the right person is served, and then hand-delivers a copy of all the papers (and the blank forms). If the person served does not take the papers, the server may leave the papers near the person.

Note: Sometimes the papers may be personally served on the other party's lawyer (if the other party has one) in the family law case.

14 "Service by mail"

Service by mail means that your server places copies of all the documents (and blank forms) in a sealed envelope and mails them to the address of each party being served (or to the party's lawyer, if the party has one).

The server must be 18 years of age or over and live or work in the county where the mailing took place.

Important! For questions about personal service or service by mail, talk with a lawyer or check with your court's family law facilitator or self-help center at selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/court-based-self-help-services.

15 When to use personal service or service by mail

Personal Service

Personal service is the best way to make sure the other adults in your case are correctly served. Sometimes you **must** use personal service.

You **must** use personal service when the court:

- ☑ Ordered personal service;
- ☑ Granted temporary emergency orders;
- ☑ Does not yet have the power to make orders that apply to the other party because the person has either NOT previously:
  - Been served with a *Summons* and *Petition;**

    OR
  - Appeared in the case by filing a:
    a. *Response* to a *Petition*;
    b. *Appearance, Stipulations, and Waivers;*
    c. Written notice of appearance;
    d. Request to strike all or part of the *Petition;* or
    e. Request to transfer the case.

*Note: A *Request for Order* may be served at the same time as the family law *Summons* and *Petition.*

1. After serving, the server must fill out a *Proof of Personal Service* (form FL-330) and give it to you. If the server needs instructions, give them form FL-330-INFO, *Information Sheet for Proof of Personal Service.*
2. Take the completed *Proof of Personal Service* form to the clerk's office (or e-file it, if available in your court) at least 5 court days before your hearing.

Deadline: The deadline for personal service is **16 court days** before the hearing date, unless the court orders a different deadline.

Service by Mail

If you are not required to use personal service, you may use service by mail.

Important! Check with your court's Family Law Facilitator's Office or Self-Help Center, or ask a lawyer to be sure you are allowed to use service by mail in your case.

A *Request for Order* to change a judgment or final order on the issue of child custody, visitation (parenting time), or child support may be served by mail if:

- ☑ The documents do not include temporary emergency orders;
- ☑ The court did not order personal service; and
- ☑ You have verified the other party's current residence or office address. (You may use *Address Verification* (form FL-334).)

To change a judgment or final order on any other issue, including spousal or domestic partner support, the *Request for Order* may need to be personally served on the other party.

1. After serving, the server must fill out a *Proof of Service by Mail* (form FL-335) and give it to you. If the server needs instructions, give them *Information Sheet for Proof of Service by Mail* (form FL-335-INFO).
2. Take the completed *Proof of Personal Service* form to the clerk's office (or e-file it, if available in your court) at least 5 court days before your hearing.

Deadline: Unless the court orders a different time, service by mail must be completed at least **16 court days *PLUS* 5 calendar days** before the hearing date (if service is in California). Other time lines apply for service outside of California.

16 Get ready for your hearing

- Take at least two copies of your documents and filed forms to the hearing. Include a filed *Proof of Service* form.
- For information about preparing for and presenting your case at the hearing, visit these two online resources: selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/tips-your-day-court and selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/debt-lawsuits/trial/present-case.
- Information about having the other party or witnesses testify in court (including information about subpoenas) is online at selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/request-for-order/notice-attend-subpoena.

17 After the hearing, form FL-340 *Findings and Order After Hearing*, must be completed, filed, and served.

18 Do you have questions or need help?

- Find a lawyer through your local bar association, the State Bar of California at www.calbar.ca.gov, or the Lawyer Referral Service at 1-866-442-2529.
- For free and low-cost legal help (if you qualify), go to www.lawhelpca.org.
- Contact the family law facilitator or self-help center for information and assistance, and referrals to local legal services providers. Go to selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/court-based-self-help-services.

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