

Complaint - a written claim filed with the court to start a case.

Consent - when the other party agrees to sign an order without a hearing.

Custodian - a parent or any other person who has physical custody of a child.

Defendant - the person against whom a case is originally filed.

Enter - how an order becomes effective. It includes getting the signature of a judge on an order and filing the order with the county clerk.

First Class Mail - a way of delivering court papers to the other party by regular mail.

Guardian - a person appointed by the court, other than a parent, who is legally responsible for a child. **Hearing** - a court meeting where both parties explain why a proposed order should or should not be signed by the judge.

Motion - a request made to the court for action in a pending case.

Moving Party - a person who asks the court to do something on their behalf.

Objection - what a party objects to in a proposed or recommended order. Objections must be made in writing.

Order - a decision signed by a judge requiring certain action.

Party - person involved in a case. May include someone other than a parent, if the court grants that person's request to be part of a case (Third Party).

Pending Case - a court case where no final judgment/order has been entered.

Proposed Order - an order which has not yet been signed by the judge.

Plaintiff - the person who starts a case.

Referee - a court officer with authority to hear cases and recommend orders.

Service - How a party receives legal papers. (See first class mail)

Stipulate - when both parties agree to something in writing.

Stipulated Order - an order that is agreed to, prepared, and signed by both parties.

True Copy - a copy of a court paper imprinted with a seal of the court to show that the copy is real.