PROCEDURES: HOW TO FILE PAPERS WITH THE COURT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PATERNITY, LEGAL DECISION MAKING, PARENTING TIME AND CHILD SUPPORT

STEP 1: Complete the *"Family Court Sensitive Data"* (make one copy)

Make two copies of the following documents after you have filled them out:

- "Family Court Electronic Distribution Opt-Out Or Consent"
- "Summons"
- "Preliminary Injunction"
- "Petition for Paternity, Legal Decision Making, Parenting Time and Child Support"
- "Judgment and Order for Paternity"
- "Parenting Plan for Joint Legal Decision Making OR Joint Legal Decision Making"
- Parent's Worksheet for Child Support"
- Income Withholding Data Form"
- "Order and Notice for Parent Information Program"
- Joint OR Sole Education Order"

STEP 2: Separate your documents into three (3) sets: (4 if DES or DCSS is involved)

 SET 1 - ORIGINALS FOR CLERK OF COURT: "Family Court Sensitive Data" "Family Court Electronic Distribution Opt-Out Or Consent" "Summons" "Preliminary Injunction" "Petition for Paternity, Legal Decision Making, Parenting Time and Child Support" "Judgment and Order for Paternity" "Parenting Plan for Joint Legal Decision Making OR Joint Legal Decision Making" Parent's Worksheet for Child Support" Income Withholding Data Form" "Order and Notice for Parent Information Program" Joint OR Sole Education Order" 	 SET 2 - COPIES FOR OTHER PARTY: "Family Court Electronic Distribution Opt-Out Or Consent" "Summons" "Preliminary Injunction" "Petition for Paternity, Legal Decision Making, Parenting Time and Child Support" "Judgment and Order for Paternity" "Parenting Plan for Joint Legal Decision Making OR Joint Legal Decision Making" Parent's Worksheet for Child Support" Income Withholding Data Form" "Order and Notice for Parent Information Program" Joint OR Sole Education Order"
 SET 3 – COPIES FOR YOU: "Family Court Sensitive Data" "Family Court Electronic Distribution Opt-Out Or Construction 	sent"

- "Summons"
- "Preliminary Injunction"
- "Petition for Paternity, Legal Decision Making, Parenting Time and Child Support"
- "Judgment and Order for Paternity"
- "Parenting Plan for Joint Legal Decision Making OR Joint Legal Decision Making"
- Parent's Worksheet for Child Support"
- Income Withholding Data Form"
- "Order and Notice for Parent Information Program"
- Joint OR Sole Education Order"

STEP 3: FILE THE PAPERS AT THE COURT: Take the original and two sets of copies to the Clerk of the Court filing counter. The Clerk will keep the originals, stamp the extra copies to show that these re copies of papers you have filed with the court, and return the stamped (now called conformed") copies to you.

You may file your papers at any of the following Superior Court locations:

Clerk of the Court	Clerk of the Court	Clerk of the Court
Mohave County Superior Court	Mohave County Superior Court	Mohave County Superior Court
415 E Spring Street	2225 Trane Road	2001 College Drive
Kingman, AZ 86401	Bullhead City, AZ 86442	Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404
(928) 753-0713	(928) 758-0730	(928) 453-0701
(Hours 8:00–5:00)	(Hours 8:30–12:00 & 1:30-4:30)	(Hours 8:30-12:00 & 1:30-4:30)

If you cannot or do not want to file the documents in person, you can also mail the documents to the Clerk of the Court. Provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope with proper postage so that the Clerk can return your "conformed" (stamped by Court staff) copies to you.

Mail to:	Clerk of Superior Court
	P.O. Box 7000
	Kingman, AZ 86402

FEES: There are fees for filing petitions, responses, requests, motions, objections, and various forms with the Court. Cash, VISA/MasterCard debit or credit cards, money order, or personal n-state checks made payable to the "Clerk of Superior Court" are acceptable forms of payment.

Go online to www.mohavecourts.az.gov list of current fees.

If you cannot afford the filing fee and/or the fee for having the papers served by the Sheriff or by publication, you may request a *deferral* (payment plan) when you file your papers with the Clerk of the Court.

If this is a joint-filing by both parties as in a "stipulation" or "agreement" and it is the first time one of the parties or his or her attorney has "appeared" or filed papers in this case, an "appearance fee" (also known as a "filing", "response" or "answer" fee) will be due from that party at the time of filing.

PAPERS: Hand all three (3) sets of your court papers to the Clerk along with the correct filing fee.

MAKE SURE YOU GET THE FOLLOWING BACK FROM THE CLERK:

- Your Set of Copies
- The Other Party's Set of <u>Copies</u>

STEP 4: SERVE THE PAPERS ON THE OTHER PARTY. Read the packet **"Service of Court Papers"**. Go to <u>www.mohavecourts.az.gov</u>, Superior Court Forms, Divorce The Petition, Step 2 and choose section A., B., or C. This will explain how to serve the other party. Remember to file your Affidavit, Waiver or Acceptance of Service as soon as the Respondent is served.

The State of Arizona may be involved if any party received public assistance for the children or used the services of the State in establishing or collecting child support. If either party already has a case with the State (DCSS or DES) involving the same children as in this case, notice of this action must also be given to the Attorney General's Office.

STEP 5: WAIT. Depending on HOW and WHERE you served the papers on the other party (in-state, out of state, by publication, etc), he or she has a certain number of days to file a RESPONSE to tell the court that he or she disagrees with your facts, or objects to the Orders you want the court to make. You should receive a copy of the Response and a notice about when and where you must appear for any court procedure or hearing.

IF NO RESPONSE is filed, you must file papers to tell the court the other party DEFAULTED – that is, the other party agrees with your request – or at least did not file papers to disagree, so the court should move forward. For the procedures, instructions and forms to begin the Default process go to <u>www.mohavecourts.az.gov</u>, Divorce With Minor Children, Step 3 - Default Divorce and follow the timetable and procedures there to apply for your default court order.