

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF COBB COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

Petitioner: _____

and

Respondent: _____

Civil Action File No.: _____

PETITION FOR LEGITIMATION

The Petitioner files this action, and states the following in support of his *Petition*:

1

I believe I am the father of the following minor children, born out of wedlock:

Child's Name	Date of Birth

2

Jurisdiction and venue are proper in this Court because:

[Check and complete only one (1) of the following choices.]

- (a) the Respondent resides in Cobb County, Georgia.
- (b) the Respondent resides in Georgia outside of Cobb County, but the children or I reside in Cobb County, and the mother has consented to venue here.
- (c) the Respondent resides outside the State of Georgia, and the children or I reside in Cobb County, Georgia.
- (d) the whereabouts of the Respondent are unknown, and the children or I reside in Cobb County, Georgia.
- (e) the mother of the children is deceased, and the children or I reside in Cobb County, Georgia.

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The Respondent, _____, is the children's mother.

[Check and complete only one (1) of the following choices.]

- (a) The Respondent's address is _____.
- (b) The Respondent is deceased.

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No other man is shown as the father on the birth certificate, and the mother was not married to any other man at the time of the children's conception or birth.

5

[Check and complete all that apply.]

The children live with the following person who takes care of the children

- (a) The Respondent/ mother
- (b) The Petitioner/ father
- (c) Neither the children's mother nor the Petitioner. Instead, the children live with _____, whose relationship to the children is _____. They reside at the following address: _____ in _____ County, in the State of _____.

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My paternity of the children has been established by a Court or by operation of law or, if paternity has not been legally established, I state that I am the children's natural father. I want to legitimate my relationship with the children, as provided in O.C.G.A. § 19-7-22, so that the children will have full rights as my children, and I will have full rights as the father of the children. I believe that legitimation would be in the children's best interests.

7

[Check and complete all that apply.]

I want the birth records of the children to be changed as follows:

- (a) I want the children's last name to be changed on the birth certificate to my last name.
- (b) I want my name to be entered as the father on the birth certificate.
- (c) No changes are necessary on the birth certificate concerning either the father's name or the children's last name.

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[Check and complete only one (1) of the following.]

- (a) There is already a child support order concerning the children. The current Order was issued by the _____ Court/Agency in the court case number _____. It requires me to pay \$ _____ per _____.

- (b) There is currently no child support order concerning the children.

THEREFORE, the Petitioner asks:

[Check and complete only those that apply.]

- (a) That process issue and the Respondent be served with a copy of this *Petition for Legitimation*;
- (b) That the Court order service by publication for the Respondent, whose address is unknown. I am filing my *Affidavit(s) of Diligent Search* with this *Petition*, and incorporate it here by reference.
- (c) I ask that the Court enter an *Order* legitimating my relationship with the children, so that the children will be recognized as my legitimate children, capable of inheriting in the same manner as if born in lawful wedlock;
- (d) That the last name of the children be changed to my last name;
- (e) That the Department of Vital Statistics be ordered and directed to amend the children’s birth record and to reissue the birth certificate as follows:
 - (1) entering my name as the father on the birth record.
 - (2) change the children’s last name to my last name.
- (f) I ask that the Court enter an *Order* providing for specific, liberal visitation privileges for me with the minor children.
- (g) I ask that the Court enter an *Order* granting the following custody:
 - (1) The Respondent and I should share joint legal custody of the children and I should have primary physical custody of the children with the Respondent having reasonable visitation rights.
 - (2) I should have sole legal custody and primary physical custody of the children with the Respondent having reasonable visitation rights.
 - (3) I should have sole legal custody and primary physical custody with the Respondent having limited, supervised visitation rights with the children for the following reasons:

 - (4) I should have sole legal custody and physical custody with the Respondent having no visitation rights with the children for the following reasons:

 - (5) Other:

