

**FINAL JUDGEMENT INSTRUCTIONS**  
**DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE WITH CHILDREN**

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The attached Final Judgement is only an example form to show you the proper format for a final judgement. It also provides examples of what you might want to include in your final judgement. You must prepare your own final judgement to meet the specific circumstances of your case.

Your final judgement must include only the relevant parts of this example final judgement. If one part of the example final judgment does not apply to your circumstances, delete that part from your personal final judgment. For example, if you do not own an automobile, do not include any section referring to an automobile in your final judgement. If alimony is not requested by one of the parties, do not include any section that relates to alimony. Do not include any information in your final judgement that does not relate to your case.

If you have only one child, you should use the singular "child" and not the plural "child(ren)" wherever indicated. You should use either "Husband" or "Wife" wherever necessary.

All child support payments must be paid under an Income Deduction Order and sent to the State of Florida Disbursement Unit. A copy of your final judgment must be sent to the Domestic Relations Depository or Central Government Depository located in your county.

Your final judgement **MUST BE TYPED** and in proper form before you can schedule a hearing with a Judge or General Master.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,  
IN AND FOR \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY, FLORIDA.

CASE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_  
DIVISION: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Petitioner,  
and

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Respondent.

**FINAL JUDGMENT OF DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE  
WITH DEPENDENT OR MINOR CHILD(REN)**

This cause came before the Court for a hearing on a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage. The Court, having reviewed the filed and heard the testimony, makes these findings of fact and reaches these conclusions of law:

1. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter and the parties.
2. At least one party has been a resident of the State of Florida for more than 6 months immediately before filing the Petition for Dissolution of Marriage.
3. The marriage between the parties, is irretrievably broken.
4. The parties have \_\_\_\_ have not \_\_\_\_ mutually agreed to an equitable distribution of personal property and debts.
5. The Husband is \_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_ employed at \_\_\_\_\_ and earns \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_. He is \_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_ receiving financial assistance from any other source in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. The Husband's social security number is \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The Wife is \_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_ employed at \_\_\_\_\_ and earns \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_. She is \_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_ receiving financial assistance from any other source in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. The Wife's social security number is \_\_\_\_\_.

(If alimony is an issue, you must also include the following section 7 and section 8 in your final judgment. If alimony is not an issue, do not include sections 7 and 8 in your final judgment.)

7. Alimony is awarded \_\_\_\_\_ denied \_\_\_\_\_ to the (Husband or Wife) after a consideration of:
- \_\_\_ a. The standard of living established during the marriage.
  - \_\_\_ b. The duration of the marriage.
  - \_\_\_ c. The age and physical and emotional condition of each party.
  - \_\_\_ d. The financial resources of each party, the nonmarital and the marital assets and liabilities distributed to each.
  - \_\_\_ e. The contribution of each party to the marriage, including services rendered in home-making, child care, education, and career building of the other party.
  - \_\_\_ f. All sources of income available to either party.
  - \_\_\_ g. Other factor necessary to do equity and justice between the parties, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
8. The Court finds that the (Husband or Wife) has \_\_\_ does not have \_\_\_ the present ability to pay alimony.

Upon consideration, it is

**ORDERED AND ADJUDGED:**

1. The marriage between the parties is dissolved, and each spouse is restored to the status of being single.

2. **PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY.** The parties shall have the shared parental responsibility of the minor child(ren) of the parties, to-wit:

\_\_\_\_\_, DOB \_\_\_\_\_, SS# \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, DOB \_\_\_\_\_, SS# \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, DOB \_\_\_\_\_, SS# \_\_\_\_\_

Each party shall share in all major decisions regarding the education, religious training, discipline, health and extracurricular activities of the minor child, as well as any and all other decisions concerning the welfare and the rearing of the minor child(ren). The parties shall encourage the love and affection of the minor child for each parent and shall use their best efforts to ensure that the minor child(ren) is(are) reared in an atmosphere most conducive to the development of a secure and loving parent/child relationship. Any emergency medical care provider shall need the consent of only one of the parties before rendering any needed emergency medical treatment.

Other parental responsibilities: \_\_\_\_\_

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3. **RESIDENTIAL CUSTODY.** The (Husband or Wife) shall have the primary residential responsibility for the minor child(ren) of the parties. The other parent shall have visitation with the parties' minor children(ren) under the following visitation schedule:

**[SELECT ONLY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING VISITATION GUIDELINES]**

\_\_\_\_\_ ***Fourth Judicial Circuit Visitation Guidelines-Distance Between Residential and Non-Residential Households is Less Than 280 Miles***

The child(ren) has a right to spend substantial time with both parents. Each of the parties shall exercise the utmost good faith and shall consent to all reasonable requests by the other party. The residential parent is expected to provide access to the child(ren) at unscheduled times if requested and if to do so does not unreasonably disrupt prior planned activities of the child(ren) or the residential parent. Therefore, not as a limitation, but as an extension of the foregoing, the non-residential parent is entitled to and shall have the following minimum visitation rights with the child(ren):

- a. One evening per week from immediately after school/work through 8:30 p.m. If the parents cannot agree upon the day, then it shall be Wednesday.
- b. Every other weekend, commencing on \_\_\_\_\_. Should the non-residential parent's regular weekend fall on a three day weekend which is observed by both the non-residential parent and the child(ren)'s school and the weekend is a holiday or special occasion not otherwise expressly provided for below, the non-residential parent shall be entitled to the three day weekend.
- c. Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends in even numbered years.
- d. Easter weekend, Independence Day (from 9:00 a.m. July 4th through 9:00 a.m. July 5th, except it shall be a three day weekend if July 4th falls on a Friday or Monday) and Thanksgiving weekend (from immediately after school/work Wednesday through 6:00 p.m. Sunday) in odd numbered years.
- e. School spring break from immediately after school/work the day school lets out through 6:00 p.m. the day before school resumes in odd numbered years.
- f. The child(ren) shall be with the father on Father's Day weekend and with the mother on Mother's Day weekend.
- g. Birthday of the child(ren) in even numbered years.

- h. Every Christmas season. In even numbered years, from immediately after school/work the day school lets out through December 25th at 1:00 p.m. During odd-numbered years, from 1:00 p.m. December 25th through 6:00 p.m. on the day before school resumes.
- i. If a weekend provided for above is a two day weekend, it shall be from 6:00 p.m. on Friday through 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. If a weekend is a three day weekend, it shall be from 6:00 p.m. the day before the weekend (Thursday or Friday) through 6:00 p.m. the last day of the weekend (Sunday or Monday). Even though several of the above visitation provisions are related to "school", the non-residential parent shall have comparable visitation with a pre-school child(ren).
- j. As to sub-paragraph (b), the residential parent shall have the alternate weekends. As to sub-paragraphs (c) through (h), the residential parent shall be entitled to the same time with the child(ren), but in alternate years.
- k. Holidays and special occasions as provided in sub-paragraphs (c) through (g) shall have priority over regular weekday and weekend visitation. Any weekday or weekend time missed by either parent as a result of any such conflict may be made up within 60 days of the missed time.
- l. Six weeks of summer visitation. If the parents cannot agree upon the dates for such visitation, then the visitation shall commence at 9:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in June and shall continue for a period of six weeks but the provisions provided for regarding Father's Day, the child(ren)'s birthday, and July 4th shall have priority. During such time, the residential parent shall also be entitled to the weekday and weekend visitation provided the non-residential parent. Notwithstanding, during the summer, each parent shall be entitled to reasonable extended, out-of-town vacation time uninterrupted by sharing the child(ren) with the other parent.
- m. Both parents shall endeavor to be punctual in transferring the child(ren). If circumstances prevent either from being punctual, the parents shall communicate and cooperate appropriately.
- n. Each parent shall give the other parent at least 24 hours advance notice (or if an emergency occurs, as quickly as possible), if he/she will be unable to exercise weeknight, weekend, Father's Day, Mother's Day, or birthday visitation. As to holidays, there shall be one week advance cancellation notice; as to Christmas and summer, one month advance cancellation notice. Notice as to Christmas and summer visitation shall be in writing.

If a child(ren) is enrolled in a modified calendar/multi-track school program, then some of the foregoing provisions would not correctly apply (e.g., Thanksgiving, Christmas, School Spring Break, and Summer).

**or**

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**Fourth Judicial Circuit Visitation Requirements When The Distance Between Residential and Non-Residential Households Exceeds 280 Miles**

Neither party shall conceal the whereabouts of any child of the parties, and each parent will keep the other advised at all times of the residential address and phone numbers where the child(ren) will be staying while in the custody of either parent. Each parent shall notify the other immediately (no later than 3 hours) of any emergency pertaining to any child of the parties.

“Reasonable” visitation with any child of the parties shall take place at such time and place as the parties may agree. If the parties cannot reach an agreement as to details of visitation, the parties will adhere to the following visitation schedule where the distance between the residential and non-residential households exceeds 280 miles.

The children have a right to spend substantial time with both parents. Each of the parties shall exercise the utmost of good faith and shall consent to all reasonable requests by the other party. The residential parent is expected to provide access to the children at unscheduled times if requested and if to do so does not unreasonably disrupt prior planned activities of the children or the residential parent. Therefore, not as a limitation, but as an extension of the foregoing, the non-residential parent is entitled to and shall have the following minimum visitation rights with the children:

- a. **WEEKENDS:** The non-residential parent may exercise alternate weekend visitation as provided for in the Fourth Judicial Circuit Visitation Guidelines in the vicinity of the residential parent’s residence. Alternatively, the non-residential parent shall have weekend visitation at a location designated by the non-residential parent once per month on any weekend during a given month that would encompass a three day weekend. In the event there is no such three day weekend during a given month, the first weekend of the month would be the weekend designated for visitation, unless otherwise agreed upon by the parties. Said visitation shall commence at 5:00 p.m. on the day before the holiday or on Friday, whichever comes first, and conclude at 5:00 p.m. on the day before school resumes or Sunday, whichever is later.
- b. **HOLIDAYS:**
  - (1). **Christmas Vacation:** Non-residential parent in even years from 5:00 p.m. on the day school dismisses to commence the Christmas vacation to 5:00 p.m. on December 27. Odd years from 5:00 p.m. on December 26 to 5:00 p.m. the day before school resumes.
  - (2). **Spring Vacation:** Non-residential parent - entire spring vacation annually from 5:00 p.m. on the last day of school to 5:00 p.m. on the day before school resumes.
  - (3). **Thanksgiving:** Non-residential parent- odd years from 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Even years - none.

(4). **Mother's Day/Father's Day:** Mother's Day and Father's Day shall be spent with the parent being honored by the holiday in question from 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the holiday until 5:00 p.m. Sunday. The Father's Day visitation shall take place in the vicinity of the residential parent's residence until said visitation coincides with the non-residential parent's summer vacation visitation.

(5). **Birthdays:** The child(ren) shall celebrate his or her birthday in the home of the residential parent unless the birthday falls on a regularly scheduled visitation date with the non-residential parent.

(6). **Non-Specified Holidays:** Should the parents jointly recognize a holiday not specifically mentioned herein, each parent shall cooperate with the other in providing visitation with the non-residential parent for the entire holiday in even-numbered years, and in working out beginning and ending times for such visitation.

c. **Summer Vacation:** The non-residential parent shall have summer visitation with the minor child(ren) for a minimum of four weeks and/or a maximum of eight weeks from 5:00 p.m. on the second Friday after the end of the school year to 5:00 p.m. on the sixth/tenth Sunday following the conclusion of the school year. During said summer vacation visitation, the residential parent shall have visitation as set forth in paragraph 1 herein. The residential parent's visitation shall take place in the vicinity of the non-residential parent's residence.

(1). **Summer School:** If a child is required to attend summer school to pass to the next grade, it must be attended and the above described summer vacation schedule does not apply. Weekend visitation as set forth in paragraph 1 herein shall apply during summer school. The non-residential parent's summer vacation visitation will commence at 5:00 p.m. on the Friday following the conclusion of summer school and last until 5:00 p.m. on the seventh Sunday following the conclusion of summer school of 5:00 p.m. on the Sunday immediately prior to commencement of the new school year, whichever comes first.

d. **Open Telephonic Communication:** When the child(ren) are with one parent, the other parent shall have open and reasonable telephonic communication with the child(ren). Said telephonic communication shall be agreed upon by the parties. However, in the event the parties are unable to agree, the parent that does not have the child(ren) with him or her shall have telephone contact on Thursdays and Sundays between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

e. **School Calendars:** School calendars shall be provided to the non-residential parent by the residential parent immediately upon receipt.

f. **Conflicts:** Regular weekend and summer vacation visitation shall be had in accordance with the holiday schedule set out herein. Should there be any conflict between the regularly scheduled and the holiday visitation, the holiday visitation will control, to wit: the visitation set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 takes precedence over the

visitation set out in paragraph 1.

g. **Transportation:** Transportation costs shall be agreed upon by the parties or left to the discretion of the Court. The criteria the Court may consider in allocating transportation costs include, but are not limited to the following:

- (1). Relative income of the parties.
- (2). Extent and regularity of the visitation of the non-residential parent prior to relocation.
- (3). Distance.
- (4). The party responsible for creating the relocation.

h. **Mode of Transportation:** The mode or method of transportation shall be agreed upon by the parties or left to the discretion of the Court.

i. **Waiting Period:** The child(ren) and the parents shall be required to wait a reasonable period of time for the visiting parent to pick up the child(ren) to begin any visitation. Consideration shall be made for the distance between the various parties and the mode of transportation used to exercise the visitation.

j. **Cancellations:** Cancellation of any of the aforementioned visitation shall be made in writing and at least 14 days prior to the scheduled commencement of said visitation.

4. **CHILD SUPPORT.** The (Husband or Wife) shall pay to the (Husband or Wife) the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_per month [week], as and for support of the minor child(ren). Said payments shall commence on the 1st day of \_\_\_\_\_, 200 \_\_, and shall continue on the 1st day of each and every month [week] thereafter, until such time as the minor child(ren) reaches the age of 18, marries, dies or becomes self-supporting, whichever shall first occur. Child support payments shall be paid by Income Deduction Order through the State of Florida Disbursement Unit, P.O. Box 8500, Tallahassee, Florida 32314-8500.

5. **HEALTH INSURANCE.** The (Husband or Wife) shall maintain health and medical insurance for the minor child(ren) and shall furnish the (Husband or Wife) with the necessary identification cards to enable her/him to utilize said benefits. [The (Husband or Wife) shall utilize the base facilities when reasonably available.] The (Husband or Wife) shall pay to the (Husband or Wife) \_\_\_\_\_% of all non-covered medical and dental expenses. The (Husband or Wife) shall present all non-covered medical bills to the other party within thirty days of receipt of same, and said bills shall be paid within thirty (30) days of receipt of same.

6. **LIFE INSURANCE.** If it is reasonably available, the (Husband or Wife) shall maintain life insurance for as long as the child(ren) is (are) entitled to receive child support and

the minor child(ren) shall be designated as the irrevocable beneficiary(ies) in an amount of at least \$\_\_\_\_\_.

7. **AUTOMOBILES.** The (Husband or Wife) shall have the sole ownership and possession of the (year) \_\_\_\_\_ automobile, vehicle identification number \_\_\_\_\_, and the (Husband or Wife) shall execute the documents required to transfer title into the (Husband's or Wife's) name alone within ten (10) days from the date of this Final Judgment. This Final Judgment shall act as a transfer of the (Husband's or Wife's) interest in the said automobile, pursuant to applicable Florida Law and Rules.

8. **MARITAL RESIDENCE.** The (Husband or Wife) shall have the sole ownership and possession of the marital residence located at\_\_\_\_\_. The complete legal description of the marital residence is:

The (Husband or Wife) shall execute whatever documents are necessary to transfer title into the (Husband's or Wife's) name alone within ten (10) days from the date of this Final Judgment. This Final Judgment shall act as a transfer of the (Husband's or Wife's) interest in the said marital residence, pursuant to applicable Florida Law and Rules.

9. **PERSONAL PROPERTY.** The Husband shall have sole ownership of the marital property listed below:

<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Fair Market Value</u>
	\$
<b>Total Value of Property</b>	\$ _____

10. The Wife shall have sole ownership of the marital property listed below:

<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Fair Market Value</u>
	\$
<b>Total Value of Property</b>	\$ _____

11. Any personal property not listed above, in section 9 or section 10, shall belong to the party currently in possession or control of the property.

12. The Husband shall be responsible for paying the following debts and shall indemnify and hold the Wife harmless:

<u>Description of Debt(s)</u>	<u>Current Amount Owed</u>
	\$
	_____
<b>Total Amount of debt</b>	\$

13. The Wife shall be responsible for paying the following debts and shall indemnify and hold the Husband harmless:

<u>Description of Debt(s)</u>	<u>Current Amount Owed</u>
	\$
	_____
<b>Total Amount of debt</b>	\$

14. The Wife's (former, maiden) name is \_\_\_\_\_ and the Court hereby restores to her use of same.

**(Do not include section 15. ALIMONY if alimony is not an issue in your case.)**

15. **ALIMONY.** The (Husband or Wife) shall pay to the (Husband or Wife) as permanent alimony in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month. The alimony shall be paid once a month beginning \_\_\_\_\_, 200\_\_, in accordance with the payroll cycle of the (Husband's or Wife's) employer. Alimony shall continue to be paid until modified by the Court, death of one of the parties, or the person receiving alimony remarries, whichever first occurs. Alimony payments shall be paid by Income Deduction Order directly to the State of Florida Disbursement Unit, P.O. Box 8500, Tallahassee, Florida 32314-8500.

16. Except as to the provisions of paragraph 1, the Court retains the jurisdiction of the parties to and the subject matter of this Final Judgment for the enforcement/contempt and/or modification of this Final Judgment. Service upon a party for enforcement/contempt actions shall be made according to applicable Florida Law.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers at \_\_\_\_\_,  
County, Florida, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 200\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CIRCUIT JUDGE**

Copies to:

Petitioner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Respondent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(List only the name and address of the depository or domestic relations office located in your county of residence.)

Central Government Depository  
Clay County Courthouse  
P.O. Box 698  
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043-0698

**or**

Domestic Relation Depository  
Duval County Courthouse, Room 402  
330 East Bay Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

**or**

Domestic Relations  
Nassau County Courthouse  
191 Nassau Place  
Yulee, Florida 32097