INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA SUPREME COURT APPROVED FAMILY LAW FORM 12.903(e), ANSWER TO SUPPLEMENTAL PETITION (02/18)

When should this form be used?

This form should be used when you are responding to a **supplemental petition** for modification of Parenting Plan, time-sharing schedule, child support, or alimony. This form is used to admit or deny all of the allegations in the supplemental petition if you do not plan to file a **counterpetition**. There is no form for a counterpetition to a supplemental petition in these Family Law Forms. If you want to file a counterpetition to a supplemental petition you will need to either seek legal assistance or create a form yourself. You may construct an answer and counterpetition using the pertinent sections contained in the **Answer to Petition and Counterpetition for Dissolution of Marriage with Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.903(c)(1), or **Answer to Petition and Counterpetition for Dissolution of Marriage with Property but No Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.903(c)(2).

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. After completing this form, you should sign the form before a **notary public** or **deputy clerk**. You should **file** the original with the **clerk of the circuit court** in the county where the case was filed and keep a copy for your records. This must be done within 20 days of receiving the supplemental petition.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-FILING

The Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file petitions or other pleadings or documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your pleadings or other documents electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the judicial circuit in which you file. **The rules and procedures should be carefully read and followed.**

What should I do next?

A copy of this form, along with all of the other forms required with this **answer**, must be mailed, e-mailed, or hand delivered to the other party in your case. Regardless of whether you file a counterpetition, you have 20 days to answer after being served with the other **party**'s supplemental petition. After you file your answer, the case will generally proceed in one of the following two ways:

UNCONTESTED. If you file an answer that agrees with everything in the other party's supplemental petition **and** you have complied with **mandatory disclosure** and filed all of the required papers, either

party may contact the clerk, **family law intake staff**, or **judicial assistant** to set a **final hearing**. If you request the hearing, you must notify the other party of the hearing by using a **Notice of Hearing (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.923, or other appropriate notice of hearing form.

CONTESTED. If you file an answer which disagrees with or denies anything in the supplemental petition, **and** you are unable to settle the disputed issues, either party may file a **Notice for Trial**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.924, after you have complied with mandatory disclosure and filed all of the required papers. Some circuits may require the completion of **mediation** before a final hearing may be set. If you request the hearing, you should contact the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant for instructions on how to set your case for trial (final hearing).

Where can I look for more information?

Before proceeding, you should read "General Information for Self-Represented Litigants" found at the beginning of these forms. The words that are in **"bold underline"** in these instructions are defined there. See chapter 61, Florida Statutes, for more information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-SERVICE ELECTION

After the initial service of process of the petition or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in certain circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Rules of Judicial Administration.** If you elect to participate in electronic service, which means serving or receiving pleadings by electronic mail (e-mail), or through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, you **must** review Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at www.flcourts.org through the link to the Rules of Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MAY SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO. If a self-represented litigant elects to serve and receive documents by e-mail, the procedures must always be followed once the initial election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General),** Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915; and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516.

Special notes…

With this form, you may also need to file the following:

- **Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) Affidavit**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(d), if the case involves child(ren).
- **Child Support Guidelines Worksheet**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(e), if child support is an issue. (If you do not know the other party's income, you may file this worksheet after his or her financial affidavit has been served on you.)
- **Settlement Agreement**, if you have reached an agreement on any or all of the issues. Although there is no form for this in these Florida Family Law Forms, you may construct a settlement agreement using the pertinent sections contained in **Marital Settlement Agreement for Dissolution of Marriage with Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(f)(1), or **Marital Settlement Agreement for Dissolution of Marriage with [Property but] No Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(f)(2).
- **Notice of Social Security Number**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(j), if not previously filed.
- **Family Law Financial Affidavit**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(b) or (c). (This must be filed within 45 days of service of the supplemental petition on you, if not filed at the time you file your answer.)
- **Certificate of Compliance with Mandatory Disclosure**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.932. (This must be filed within 45 days of **service** of the supplemental petition on you, if not filed at the time of you file your answer, unless you and the other party have agreed not to exchange these documents.)

Parenting and Time-Sharing. If you and the other party are unable to agree on parenting arrangements and a time-sharing schedule, a judge will decide for you as part of establishing a Parenting Plan. The judge will decide the parenting arrangements and time-sharing schedule based on the child(ren)'s best interests. Regardless of whether there is an agreement, the court reserves jurisdiction to modify issues relating to the minor child(ren).

The judge may request a **parenting plan recommendation** or appoint a **guardian ad litem** in your case. This means that a neutral person will review your situation and report to the judge concerning parenting issues. The purpose of such intervention is to be sure that the best interests of the child(ren) is (are) being served. For more information, you may consult section 61.13, Florida Statutes. A **parenting course** may be required prior to entry of a final judgment. You should contact the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant about requirements for parenting courses or mediation where you live.

Listed below are some terms with which you should become familiar before completing your supplemental petition. **If you do not fully understand any of the terms below or their implications, you should speak with an attorney before going any further.**

Shared Parental Responsibility
Sole Parental Responsibility
Supervised Time-Sharing
No contact
Parenting Plan

Parenting Plan Recommendation
Time-Sharing Schedule

Child Support. Both parents are required to provide financial support for their minor or dependent children.; however, , the court may order one parent to pay child support to the other parent. Florida has adopted guidelines for determining the amount of child support to be paid. These guidelines are based on the combined income of **both** parents and take into account the financial contributions of both parents and the number of overnights the child(ren) spend with each parent. You must file a **Family Law Financial Affidavit**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(b) or (c), and the other parent will be required to do the same. From your financial affidavits, you should be able to calculate the amount of child support that should be paid using the **Child Support Guidelines Worksheet**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(e). Because the child support guidelines take several factors into consideration, change over time, and vary from state to state, your child support obligation may be more or less than that of other people in seemingly similar situations.

Temporary Relief. If you need temporary relief regarding parental responsibility and time-sharing with child(ren), child support or alimony, you may file a **Motion for Temporary Support with Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.947(a) or, if you need temporary relief regarding alimony and there are no dependent or minor child(ren), you may file a **Motion for Temporary Support with No Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.947(c). For more information, see the instructions for these forms.

Settlement Agreement. If you and the other party are able to reach an agreement on any or all of the issues, you should file a Settlement Agreement. Although there is no form for this in these Florida Family Law Forms, you may construct a settlement agreement using the pertinent sections contained in **Marital Settlement Agreement for Dissolution of Marriage with Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(f)(1), or **Marital Settlement Agreement for Dissolution of Marriage with No Dependent or Minor Child(ren)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(f)(2). Both parties must sign this agreement before a **notary public** or **deputy clerk**. Any issues on which you are unable to agree will be considered **contested** and settled by the judge at the final hearing.

Final Judgment Forms. These family law forms contain a **Supplemental Final Judgment Modifying Parental Responsibility, Visitation, or Parenting Plan/Time-Sharing Schedule or Other Relief**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.993(a), a **Supplemental Final Judgment Modifying Child Support**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.993(b), and a **Supplemental Final Judgment Modifying Alimony**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.993(c), which the judge may use, as appropriate. You should contact the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant to see if you need to bring a final judgment with you to the hearing. If so, you should type or print the heading, including the circuit, county, case number, division, and the parties' names, and leave the rest blank for the judge to complete at your hearing or trial.

Nonlawyer. Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps

you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of a **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900(a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____TWENTIETH_____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____COLLIER_____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____
Division: _____Family_____

_____,
Petitioner,

and

_____,
Respondent.

ANSWER TO SUPPLEMENTAL PETITION

I, *{full legal name}* _____, being sworn, certify that the following information is true:

1. I **agree** with the allegations raised in the following numbered paragraphs in the Supplemental Petition and, therefore, **admit** those allegations: *{indicate section and paragraph number}* __

2. I **disagree** with the allegations raised in the following numbered paragraphs in the Supplemental Petition and, therefore, **deny** those allegations: *{indicate section and paragraph number}* _____

3. I currently am unable to admit or deny the following paragraphs due to lack of information: *{indicate section and paragraph number}* _____

4. If not previously filed in this case, a completed Family Law Financial Affidavit, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(b) or (c) _____, is filed with this answer, or _____will be timely filed.

5. If not previously filed in this case, a completed Notice of Social Security Number, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(j), is filed with this answer.

6. _____*{If applicable}* This case involves minor child(ren), and a completed Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) Affidavit, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(d), is filed with this answer.

7. _____*{If applicable}* This case involves child support, and a completed Child Support Guidelines Worksheet, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(e),_____ is filed or _____ will be timely filed with the court.

I certify that a copy of this document was ___ mailed ___ faxed and mailed (___) e-mailed ___ hand delivered to the person(s) listed below on *{date}* _____.

Other Party or his/her attorney:
Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Fax Number: _____
Designated E-mail Address(es):_____
_____

I understand that I am swearing or affirming under oath to the truthfulness of the claims made in this answer and that the punishment for knowingly making a false statement includes fines and/or imprisonment.

Dated: _____

_____
Signature of Party
Printed Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Fax Number: _____
Designated E-mail Address(es):_____
_____

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to or affirmed and signed before me on _____ by _____.

_____
NOTARY PUBLIC or DEPUTY CLERK

_____
[Print, type, or stamp commissioned name of notary or clerk.]

_____ Personally known
_____ Produced identification
Type of identification produced _____

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:
[fill in **all** blanks] This form was prepared for the *{choose one}* _____ Petitioner _____ Respondent.
This form was completed with the assistance of:
{name of individual} _____,
{name of business} _____,
*{address}*_____,
{city} _____,*{state}* _____, *{zip code}*_____, *{telephone number}* _____.