

SELF-SERVICE CENTER

RESPONDING TO A PETITION FOR EMANCIPATION INFORMATION & INSTRUCTIONS

1. **MUST I FILE A RESPONSE: NO.** It is not required, but you *may* file a response and you may also appear at the hearing if you want to tell the Court why you support or do not support the Minor's request to be emancipated or to provide additional information or to correct information contained in the Minor's "*Petition for Emancipation*".
2. **WHO CAN FILE A RESPONSE:** Generally, if you received notice of the request for emancipation from the Court, you **may** respond, though you are not required to do so.
3. **DOES IT COST TO FILE A RESPONSE:** There are fees for filing petitions, responses, and various forms with the Court. A list of current fees is available from the Clerk of Court. If you cannot afford the filing fee, you may request a deferral (payment plan) when you file your papers with the Clerk of the Court. Deferral Applications are available at no charge from the Clerk of the Court or the Self Service Center.
4. **WHEN MUST A RESPONSE BE FILED:** *If* you choose to file a written response, you must file it with the Clerk of the Court no later than **thirty (30) days** after you received the court papers.
5. **WHAT TO FILE:** After you have completed your Response, make **3 copies** and present the original and all 3 copies to the Clerk of the Court to be stamped, **along with your filing fee** or fee deferral application. The Clerk will place the original in the Court file and return the copies to you.
6. **WHO GETS THE THREE STAMPED COPIES OF THE RESPONSE:**
 - **1 copy goes to the Minor or his/her attorney.** If you know the address of the Minor or of his/her attorney, mail or deliver a copy of your response to the Minor or his/her attorney.
 - **1 copy goes to the Judge.** If you provide a copy for the Judge, the Clerk of Court will deliver it to the judge assigned to the case.
 - **1 copy is for your records** (if desired).
7. **WHAT TO SAY IN THE RESPONSE:** Tell the Judge why you support or object to the Minor's emancipation, and/or explain any other information the Court should be aware of in relation to the Minor's emancipation. **Write neatly and use black ink.**
8. **GOING TO THE HEARING:** In addition to (or instead of) filing the "*Response*", you may attend the Court hearing to be available to tell the Judge why you support or disagree with the Petition or to inform the Court of any incorrect or incomplete information.

OTHER THINGS TO KNOW FOR THE COURT HEARING:

- a. The Court may use an audio recording system to preserve the official record of proceedings. If a party wants a court reporter to record a proceeding in this Court, a written request must be filed with the Clerk of the Court and a copy provided to Court Administration at least 72 hours before the commencement of the proceeding. There is a **fee** for this service.
- b. **If you need a court interpreter**, call Court Administration at least **10** days before the hearing.