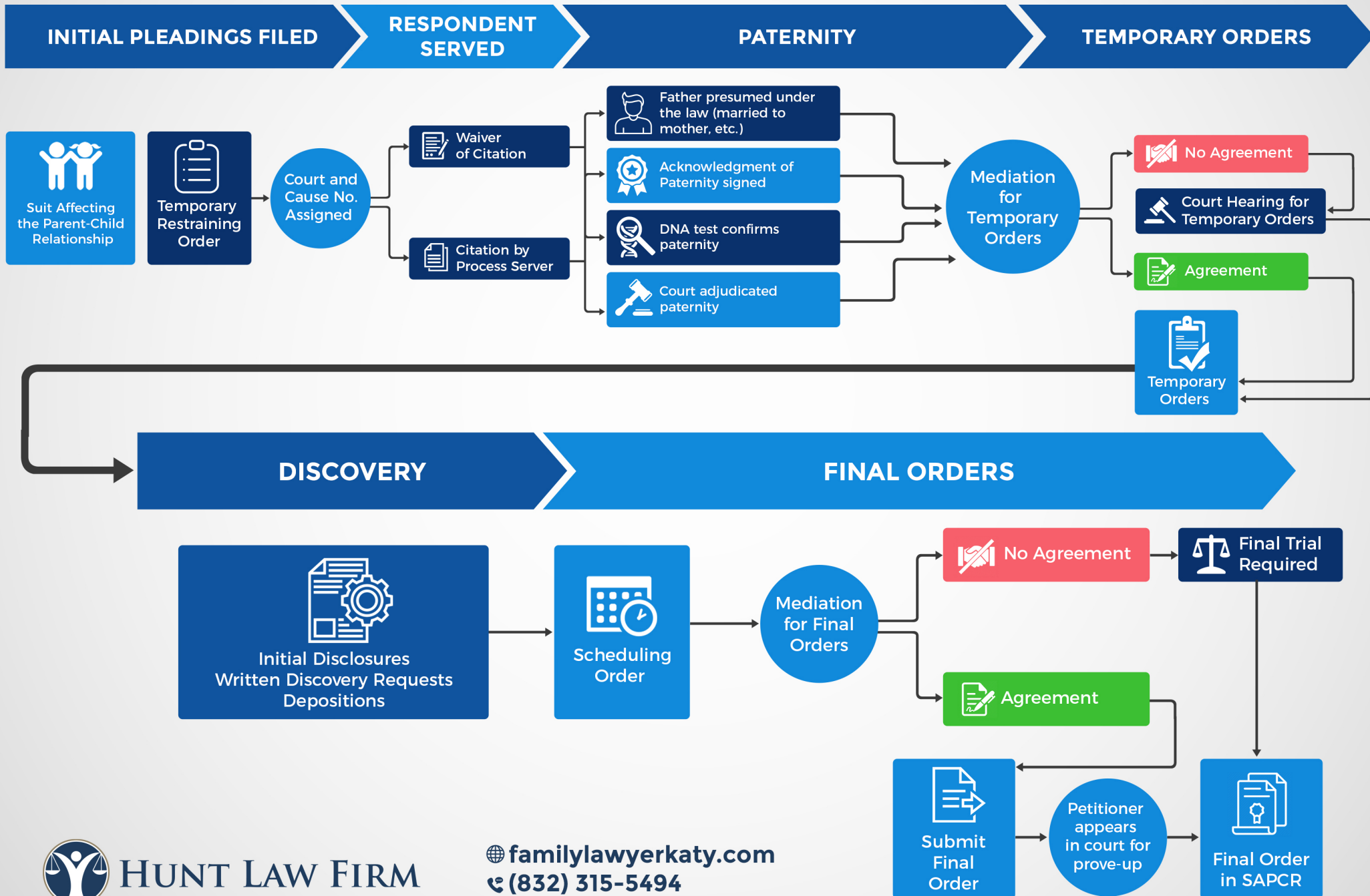


TEXAS CHILD CUSTODY PROCESS

SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP (SAPCR)



HUNT LAW FIRM

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CHILD CUSTODY IN TEXAS

TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW



SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP (SAPCR)

This is a type of lawsuit in Texas where conservatorship, possession and access, child support, and medical and dental support for your child(ren) are established.



TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER (TRO)

We may also draft a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO), which enjoins both you and the opposing party from damaging behaviors that could hurt you or your children. It is valid for 14 days and can be extended for another 14 days. It also sets a court date for a Temporary Orders Hearing.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PATERNITY (AOP)

An Acknowledgment of Paternity is a legal document which allows parents who aren't married to establish legal paternity. It is often signed at birth at the hospital, but can also be signed later.



PRESUMED FATHER

A man is presumed to be the father of a child if he meets one of the provisions in Texas Family Code 160.204, one of which is being married to the mother of the child.



WAIVER OF CITATION

If the opposing party knows about the case and is agreeable to signing a waiver of formal service, we can draft a waiver and meet with them in our office to sign the notarized waiver.



CITATION BY PROCESS SERVER

If the opposing party will not sign a waiver or does not know about the case, our process server can serve them with the necessary documents.



MEDIATION

Mediation may be necessary so an agreement can be worked out, especially if temporary or final custody of the children is contested. Most courts require mediation before a Temporary Orders hearing or final trial.



COURT HEARING FOR TEMPORARY ORDERS

If no agreement is reached, we will present your case at a hearing and the judge will decide the appropriate orders.



AGREED TEMPORARY ORDERS

We will confer with the opposing party's attorney to try to negotiate Temporary Orders and draft an agreed Order for the judge to sign. Temporary Orders are in place while the case is pending, and can address temporary custody of children, child support, and medical support.



DISCOVERY

Discovery requests are legal tools used to obtain information and documents from the opposing party or outside witnesses. It may not be necessary in all cases.



AGREED FINAL ORDER IN SAPCR

We will confer with the opposing party's attorney to negotiate final orders and then collaborate to draft a Final Order for the judge to sign.



FINAL TRIAL

If an agreement is not reached, we will present your case to a judge or jury. The judge or jury will decide on the appropriate final orders.



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