TEXAS FAMILY LAW ENFORCEMENTS

INITIAL PLEADINGS FILED

RESPONDENT SERVED

ATTEMPT AGREEMENT



OR **Original Answer** (if you were served)

Personal service of Respondent required

Confer with opposing counsel regarding possible settlement

Order to **Appear**

PREPARE FOR COURT

FINAL ORDERS



Meeting with your attorney to prepare evidence and testimony

Court hearing in front of judge



Draft & submit Final Order of Enforcement

Final Order of Enforcement signed by judge

IUNT LAW FIRM

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STEPS IN A TEXAS ENFORCEMENT CASE WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



WHAT IS AN ENFORCEMENT?

An enforcement is your legal remedy under Texas law if an opposing party has violated any portion of a prior order or divorce decree. The most common enforcement violations are for failure to pay child support or child custody issues.



MOTION FOR ENFORCEMENT

In the Motion for Enforcement that your attorney will draft, each alleged violation will be specifically listed to put the Respondent on notice of what they are doing wrong. The Order to Appear provides you a court hearing date and time, and it orders both parties to attend.



CITATION BY PROCESS SERVER

The law requires that the Respondent be personally served. This means that a process server or peace officer must physically hand them the documents – a waiver of service is not valid. This is so strict because some enforcements may result in jail time.



IF YOU WERE SERVED

If you were served with an enforcement, it is imperative that you move quickly to consult with a family law attorney. You only have a few weeks to file an answer. There are some defenses that an attorney can discuss with you if they apply in your situation.



ATTEMPT AGREEMENT

The attorneys typically talk before the final hearing to see if an out-of-court settlement is possible. Some courts require mediation before a final enforcement hearing.



PREPARING FOR COURT

Your attorney will meet with you as your hearing date gets closer. Together, you will review the evidence, gather any additional information, and prepare to testify.



FINAL COURT HEARING

If an agreement is not reached, both parties will present their case to the judge. After evidence is submitted and testimony is taken, the judge will decide the appropriate final orders and remedies.



FINAL ORDER FOR ENFORCEMENT

Once the court makes its decision, your attorney will draft the Final Order for Enforcement and file it with the Court for the judge's signature to finalize the case.



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