

**SAMPLE**

STATE OF MAINE

DISTRICT COURT

District of \_\_\_\_\_

Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

In Re Child's first and last name )  
 )  
 )  
 )  
 )  
 )  
 )

CHILD PROTECTION PETITION

Pursuant to 22 MRSA §4032, Friend #1, Friend #2, and Friend #3, bring this petition and in support thereof state the following:

A. CHILD

\_\_\_\_\_ is the son/daughter of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and was born on \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ (town, State). The child currently resides at \_\_\_\_\_

B. PETITIONERS

The Petitioners' names, addresses, and relationship to the child are as follows:

- a. Petitioner #1, Address, relationship (e.g., is his girlfriend's mother, and has come to know John during the four months of the relationship between him and her daughter).
- b. Petitioner #2, Address, relationship (e.g., is the live-in partner of Petitioner #1, and has come to know John through his periodic presence at the their home)
- c. Petitioner #3, Address, Relationship (e.g., is the sister of Petitioner #1, and has come to know John through his relationship with Petitioner #1's niece)

C. PARENTS

\_\_\_\_\_ 's mother resides at \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ 's father resides at \_\_\_\_\_.

The legal custodian for \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, who resides at \_\_\_\_\_.

D. A SUMMARY STATEMENT OF THE FACTS THAT THE PETITIONER BELIEVES CONSTITUTE THE BASIS FOR THE PETITION

- a. See attached Affidavit of Petitioner #1.
- b. See attached Affidavit of Petitioner #2.
- c. See attached Affidavit of Petitioner #3.

E. SUMMARY OF FACTS PETITIONERS BELIEVE CONSTITUTES JEOPARDY TO THE CHILD'S HEALTH OR WELFARE  
**[Sample allegations below]**

- a. On July 23, 2023, John fled from his parents' home in \_\_\_\_\_, Maine and took refuge at the residence of \_\_\_\_\_, Friend #1, and her Mother's partner, Friend #2, in \_\_\_\_\_, Maine.
- b. Since that time John has been staying with different friends, and occasionally on the street.
- c. John's parents have indicated that they do not want him in their home, and that he is a runaway.
- d. John is frequently without adequate food, clothing, or shelter, and health care, and is at risk of exploitation by the adults he encounters on the street and in his various living situations.

F. REASONABLE EFFORTS TO PREVENT REMOVAL OF THE CHILDREN FROM THE HOME

- a. **[Put any contacts with DHHS here.** For example "After his arrival at Jane's House on July 23, 2023, a report was filed with DHHS. A DHHS worker has yet to contact John."]
- b. **[Describe here any services that are in place or efforts to get other services in place.]**

G. RELATIVES WHO MAY BE ABLE TO CARE FOR THE CHILD.

**[Include the name and address of any relative who might be able to care for the child. If the child has Indigenous heritage include the names of**

**Indigenous relatives.]**

- a. Name, address
- b. Name, address
- c. Name, address

H. NOTICE REGARDING RIGHT TO COUNSEL

You are entitled to legal counsel in these proceedings. If you want an attorney but are unable to afford one, you should contact the clerk of the Maine District Court at \_\_\_\_\_ (Telephone number and address of Court) as soon as possible to request appointed counsel.

I. NOTICE REGARDING PARENTAL RIGHTS

Failure to appear at court hearing or court conferences regarding this matter may be determined to indicate an intent to abandon your child pursuant to 22 MRSA §4002(1-A). A finding of abandonment may be the basis for removal of a child from your custody and may ultimately lead to termination of your parental rights. These proceedings could eventually lead to the termination of your parental rights under 22 MRSA §4051-4057.

WHEREFORE the Petitioner requests:

- J. That the Court fix a time for hearing on this petition, and order notice of the hearing to the parents and custodians of the child, the guardian *ad litem* for the child, and other parties named in the petition.
- K. That, pursuant to 22 MRSA §4005, the Court appoint a guardian *ad litem* for the child.
- L. That, after an adjudicatory hearing and finding of jeopardy to the child's health or welfare and after dispositional hearing, the Court issue a final protection order pursuant to 22 MRSA §4035 and §4036, specifically order that:

**[You can ask the Court to Order one or more of the following things:]**

- a. DHHS will supervise the child and family in the child's home;
  - b. Treatment services will be provided to the child and his family;
  - c. Necessary emergency medical treatment will be provided to the child;
  - d. The child (if 16) will be emancipated;
  - e. Custody is awarded to DHHS or someone else, and/or
  - f. Contact between an abuser and the child is prohibited.
- M. That, if the child is removed from the custody of a parent, the Court order each parent to pay a reasonable amount of child support.

Respectfully submitted by  
**[Signatures must be notarized.]**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Friend #1  
Address  
Phone number

Subscribed and sworn to before me on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public/Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Friend #2  
Address  
Phone number

Subscribed and sworn to before me on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public/Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Friend #3  
Address  
Phone number

Subscribed and sworn to before me on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public/Attorney

NOTICE OF HEARING

A hearing on the foregoing Petition is ordered at the Maine District Court,  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the County of \_\_\_\_\_ on  
\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m., and it is further ordered that the parents  
and guardian *ad litem* for the child be notified of these proceedings at least 10 days prior to the  
hearing date in accordance with M.R. Civ. P. 4 so that they may appear and be heard.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_, Maine

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Clerk of the Maine District Court