How to Register a Parenting Order in Montana from a Different Court or State

Information Not Legal Advice

The information is not legal advice. The law is different in each state. This information is for registering orders in Montana, based on Montana law. The information is not guaranteed to be up to date. The information can't replace advice from an attorney.

NEED HELP? There are resources available.



The Court Help Program. The Court Help Program assists people representing themselves in court. There are Court Help Centers located throughout the state to assist you on a walk-in basis and remote appointments available if your local Courthouse does not have a Court Help Center. Court Help staff are not lawyers and cannot provide legal advice. Staff are informed about the court process and can answer questions as well as review your forms for completeness. Find Court Help services near you: https://courts.mt.gov/SelfHelp/ or call 406-444-9300.

Montana Legal Services Association. Montana Legal Services Association provides free civil legal assistance to low-income Montanans. If you qualify, Montana Legal Services Association may be able to connect you with a variety of services. Visit www.MontanaLawHelp.org, or call MLSA at 1-800-666-6899.

State Bar of Montana. If you are interested in hiring an attorney to advise or represent you, the State Bar Lawyer Referral Service has a list of attorneys all over Montana. The Lawyer Referral Service is available at www.montanabar.org.

Are these forms right for me?

This packet gives Montana the power (called jurisdiction) to enforce your Parenting Order. You might want to do this if you, the other parent, or anyone else who has custody of your child lives in Montana. Enforcing your parenting plan means you can ask the police or the court to help make sure the other parent follows the schedule or rules of the plan.

© 2026 Montana Legal Services Association and Montana Judicial Branch
These forms are free for non-commercial use.
If you paid for these forms, ask for your money back.

What is the Process?

NOTE: The steps for filing a request for registration of a foreign order may be slightly different in your judicial district. Check with the Clerk of District Court at your county courthouse for local requirements.

STEP ONE: Complete and File the Request to Register a Foreign Judgement Forms

If you have a Court approved Parenting Order from another State or Tribal Court and have reason to register this Order in Montana, this is the right packet for you. If you need more help completing the forms, contact a Court Help Center or Montana Legal Services Association. The Court Help Center can print these forms and help you fill them out.

District Court Checklist:

- □ (Optional) Statement of Inability to Pay Filing Fee **MP 001**
- □ Request for Registration of a Foreign Parenting Order **MP 902**
- □ Notice for Parenting Order Registration **MP 902.1**
- □ *Certified Copy* of your Parenting Order for the Court **and** a regular copy for the other Parent



You need a certified copy of the Parenting Order you want to register. Here's what you should know:

- A certified copy will have a stamp or notary block on it saying it is a true and exact copy.
- You must register the most recent Parenting Order from the other state.
- You can't register an order that had been changed by the court in the other state.
- If you have questions about getting a certified copy, contact the Clerk of Court in the state that made the order.
- There may be a fee to get a certified copy.

STEP TWO: Wait for the contested period to expire.

The Court will complete and issue a Notice of Registration of Foreign Judgement. The Court will also serve this Notice on the other parent.



If the other parent challenges the registration of the Parenting Order, the Court may schedule a hearing to decide what to do. If a hearing is scheduled, you must go to the hearing and save any additional Orders from the Court for your records.

If the other parent does not challenge the registration, the Notice of Registration the Court already gave you becomes your final Court Order. Keep this in a safe place for your records.

© 2026 Montana Legal Services Association and Montana Judicial Branch
These forms are free for non-commercial use.
If you paid for these forms, ask for your money back.

_____
Name

_____
Mailing Address

_____
City State Zip Code

_____
Phone Number

_____
E-mail

☐ Petitioner/Co Petitioner 1 ☐ Respondent/Co Petitioner 2

MONTANA ____JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, _____ COUNTY

_____ Petitioner/Co Petitioner 1, and _____ Respondent/Co Petitioner 2	**Case No:** _____ *(leave blank, the clerk will write in)* **Statement of Inability to Pay Court Costs and Fees**

I have a good cause of action or response but am unable to pay filing or other court fees. I request the court waive the costs and fees. I provide the following information.

My full legal name is: _____.

Birth month: _____ year: _____.

Choose One:

☐ I am represented by an entity that provides free legal services to low-income persons.

OR

☐ I am represented by a volunteer/pro bono attorney, and am financially eligible for free legal services. (*Attach a certificate of eligibility from legal aid organization to this form.*)

OR

☐ I receive one or more of these benefits: (*Check the box for <u>each</u> benefit you receive*.)

☐ SNAP ☐ TANF ☐ SSI ☐ Medicaid ☐ WIC ☐ LIHEAP

If you checked any one of the three boxes above, skip to the end of this form, and sign the declaration on page 3. You don't need to fill out the remainder of the form.

If you did not check a box above, you may still qualify for a fee waiver. Please continue to fill out pages 2 and 3 of this form so the court has the information it needs to decide if you qualify for the fee waiver.

These forms are free for non-commercial use.
If you paid for these forms, ask for your money back.

I. INCOME

What do you do for work? _____ Who is your employer? _____

What is your household's annual income, before taxes? _____ How many people are in your household? ___
(*The tables below will help you answer these questions, if you are not sure what to put in the blanks.*)

If you are unemployed, when were you last employed (Month, Year)? _____ Your job? _____

Are you married? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Separated ☐ Getting Divorced NOTE: If you are not married, if you and your spouse are separated, or if one of you is filing for dissolution of marriage, you do not need to provide your spouse's income below.

Fill in the chart below with the income received by you, and by your spouse, if applicable. Put a "0" in each blank if you or your spouse don't receive the income listed.

Income Sources	**Amount YOU receive per month *before* taxes**	**Amount YOUR SPOUSE receives per month *before* taxes**
Employment	$	$
Retirement/Pension	$	$
Workers' Compensation	$	$
Social Security	$	$
Unemployment	$	$
Government Benefits	$	$
Child Support Received	$	$
A person or agency pays my rent or other monthly expenses and the amount is: _____	$	$
Other Income—e.g., rental income, stocks, investments, etc.—describe: _____	$	$
Total here:	$	$

What is your household size? How many persons, if any, depend on you financially? If none, then write "N/A" below. Attach another page if needed and check here to tell the court you attached another page: ☐

Dependents (Initials Only)	**Age**	**Relationship to You**
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

These forms are free for non-commercial use.
If you paid for these forms, ask for your money back.

II. ASSETS (*Complete this Section to the best of your ability.*)

What property do you and your spouse own? Include your spouse's property if you are married and not separated and not filing for dissolution. Fill in the chart below, only listing items that you could sell for $600 or more. If you don't own an item listed, write "N/A" in the "Value" column for that item. "Value" means the total amount the item(s) identified in a column would sell for, minus the amount you still owe on the item(s), if anything.

Asset	Value
Cash (This includes the money in your savings and checking accounts)	$
Vehicle 1: provide year, make and model _____	$
Vehicle 2: provide year, make and model _____	$
Home where you live now	$
Real estate or other homes/mobile homes (Not including the home you are living in now)	$
Recreational vehicle(s) such as snowmobile, ATV, camper/RV, boat, motorcycle, etc.	$
Guns or other collections	$
Other Item(s) worth more than $600—describe: _____	$

III. DEBTS AND EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES (*Complete this Section to the best of your ability.*)

What bills do you and your spouse pay each month? Fill in the chart below.

Monthly Expenses	Value
Housing Expense: Mortgage or Rent	$
General Household Expenses: Utilities, Phone/Internet/Cable, etc.	$
Insurance Expenses, Healthcare Costs and/or Medical Debt(s)	$
Childcare Expenses	$
Other Extraordinary Expenses: e.g., Collection actions, Student Loans—describe:	$

IV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION *(This Section is optional.)*

If you have additional information that you want the court to consider about your inability to pay court costs, write that information under your signature below or attach an extra page. Check here if you attached another page: ☐

V. DECLARATION *(This Section is Required.)*

I declare under penalty of perjury and under the laws of the State of Montana that the information in this document is true and correct. I understand that it is a crime to give false information in this document.

Date: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Your Signature: _____

These forms are free for non-commercial use.
If you paid for these forms, ask for your money back.

Court Use Only

MONTANA ____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT _____ COUNTY

_____ Petitioner/Co Petitioner 1, and _____ Respondent/Co Petitioner 2	**Case No:** _____ (*leave blank, the clerk will write in)* **Order Regarding Statement of Inability to Pay Court Costs**

Warning! Read carefully the section checked below.
It is a court order.

☐ Waiver of court costs is **Granted**. Declarant shall proceed without payment of court fees or costs.

☐ Temporary Waiver of court costs is **Granted**. Declarant may file without payment of court fees or costs, but the Court may determine at a later time that the declarant has the ability to pay all fees or costs and will require declarant to do so.

☐ Temporary Waiver of fees is **Granted**. Declarant may file without payment of court fees or costs, but must appear before the Court at _____ a.m/p.m. on the _____ day of _____ and show cause why the declarant lacks the ability to pay all fees or costs.

Warning! If this third box is checked, you must come to court on the date ordered above. If you don't come, the judge will deny your request to waive court costs, and you will have to pay the court costs.

☐ Waiver of Fees and costs is **Denied**. Waiver is denied based on the following:

_____

_____

_____

Ordered this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

_____
Presiding Judge or Standing Master

These forms are free for non-commercial use.
If you paid for these forms, ask for your money back.

_____
Name

_____
Mailing Address

_____
City, State Zip Code

_____
Phone Number

_____
E-mail Address

Date: _____

To: _____County District Court *(Court where you wish to register the Order)*

Address: _____

Re: MCA § 40-7-305 Request for Registration of Child Custody Determination

To Whom It May Concern:

I am requesting that you register the enclosed Foreign Judgment or Custody Order in your Court. I have included two copies of the Judgment or Order, one of which is certified. I swear under penalty of perjury that to the best of my knowledge and belief the Judgment or Order included with this letter is the most recent Judgment or Order and has not been modified by the issuing court.

The name and address of the other parent and any other individuals awarded custody, visitation or parenting time in the Judgment or Order are:

Name:_____

_____
Mailing Address

_____
City, State Zip Code

© 2026 Montana Legal Services Association and Montana Judicial Branch
These forms are free for non-commercial use.
If you paid for these forms, ask for your money back.

Name:_____

_____
Mailing Address

_____
City, State Zip Code

As a courtesy to the Court, I have also included a Notice of Registration of Child Custody Determination for the Court to serve as required by MCA § 40-7-305(2)(b).

Sincerely,

_____
Signature Date

_____
Printed Name

© 2026 Montana Legal Services Association and Montana Judicial Branch
These forms are free for non-commercial use.
If you paid for these forms, ask for your money back.

MONTANA _____JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT_____COUNTY

In the Matter/Parenting of:_____ *(children's initials if a parenting action)* _____, Petitioner/Co Petitioner 1 and _____, Respondent/Co Petitioner 2	**Case No:** _____ *(Court will fill in)* **Notice of Registration of Parenting Order**

A Parenting Order was entered on _____ (Day/Month/Year) by the following Court not in Montana:

Court Name: _____

County: _____

State: _____

A request was made to Register the Foreign Parenting Order with this Montana Court, pursuant to § 40-7-305 of Montana Code Annotated.

The Request is GRANTED. The other party is hereby notified that this registered determination is enforceable in Montana as of the date of registration below.

If you contest the validity of the registration, you must request a hearing within 20 days of service of this notice. Failure to contest the registration will result in confirmation of the child custody determination.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

_____
District Court Judge or Standing Master

© 2026 Montana Legal Services Association and Montana Judicial Branch
These forms are free for non-commercial use.
If you paid for these forms, ask for your money back.