

RELOCATION – REQUIRED FACTOR-BASED SUBMISSION

Florida law requires the Court, before granting or denying a proposed temporary or permanent relocation of a minor child, to evaluate the statutory relocation factors and to make findings based upon competent, substantial evidence presented at hearing or trial. In order to efficiently manage the case and to identify the issues in dispute, the Court requires the parties to organize their positions by reference to the statutory factors listed below.

Accordingly, **in all cases involving a request for relocation in which a party is proceeding without counsel, and prior to the Pretrial Conference**, each parent or other person shall complete, if applicable, each factor set forth in paragraphs (a) through (k) below and shall provide a brief summary of the facts the party contends will be supported by evidence at hearing or trial. If a factor is not applicable, the party shall so state. If additional space is required, additional pages may be attached, provided each response clearly identifies the corresponding factor.

This submission is intended solely to assist in case management and issue identification. It does not constitute evidence, does not replace sworn testimony or admissible exhibits, and may not be relied upon by the Court as proof of any fact absent proper evidentiary support presented at hearing or trial.

This completed document **must be attached to the party's proposed Parenting Plan and proposed Final Judgment or proposed Order on Relocation, as applicable, and presented to the Court at the Pretrial Conference**. Failure to comply may result in the Court proceeding based upon the evidence available or imposing appropriate sanctions.

(a) The nature, quality, extent of involvement, and duration of the child's relationship with the parent or other person proposing to relocate with the child and with the nonrelocating parent, other persons, siblings, half-siblings, and other significant persons in the child's life.

(b) The age and developmental stage of the child, the needs of the child, and the likely impact the relocation will have on the child's physical, educational, and emotional development, taking into consideration any special needs of the child.

(c) The feasibility of preserving the relationship between the nonrelocating parent or other person and the child through substitute arrangements that take into consideration the logistics of contact, access, and time-sharing, as well as the financial circumstances of the parties; whether those factors are sufficient to foster a continuing meaningful relationship between the child and the nonrelocating parent or other person; and the likelihood of compliance with the substitute arrangements by the relocating parent or other person once he or she is out of the jurisdiction of the court.

(d) The child's preference, taking into consideration the age and maturity of the child.

(e) Whether the relocation will enhance the general quality of life for both the parent or other person seeking the relocation and the child, including, but not limited to, financial or emotional benefits or educational opportunities.

(f) The reasons each parent or other person is seeking or opposing the relocation.

(g) The current employment and economic circumstances of each parent or other person and whether the proposed relocation is necessary to improve the economic circumstances of the parent or other person seeking relocation of the child.

(h) That the relocation is sought in good faith and the extent to which the objecting parent has fulfilled his or her financial obligations to the parent or other person seeking relocation, including child support, spousal support, and marital property and marital debt obligations.

(i) The career and other opportunities available to the objecting parent or other person if the relocation occurs.

(j) A history of substance abuse or domestic violence as defined in s. 741.28 or which meets the criteria of s. 39.806(1)(d) by either parent, including a consideration of the severity of such conduct and the failure or success of any attempts at rehabilitation.

(k) Any other factor affecting the best interest of the child or as set forth in s. 61.13.