

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
FAMILY LAW DIVISION**

**Petitioner,**

**CASE NO.:**

**DIVISION:**

**and**

**Respondent.**

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**ORDER OF REFERRAL OF SOCIAL INVESTIGATION AND STUDY**

**THIS COURT**, pursuant to Section 61.20 Florida Statutes, orders the Office of Social Investigation and Study (OSIS) of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit to investigate and to submit to the Court, and to the parties, a written report with appropriate recommendations. To this end, it is hereby **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED**:

1. The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's Office of Social Investigation and Study is hereby appointed as the Investigator in this case. The Office shall assign a duly qualified person to conduct the social investigation in this cause. The issues the Court wishes to have addressed are as indicated below:

\_\_\_ Initial Determination of Parent Plan                      \_\_\_ Modification of Parenting Plan

\_\_\_ Time-Sharing Schedule    \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**2. THE PARTIES SHALL COOPERATE WITH THE INVESTIGATOR BY DOING THE FOLLOWING:**

- a. Not coaching the child(ren) in any way regarding this investigation process.
- b. Making payment to the investigator within ten (10) days of assignment. **SEE SECTION 3, below.**
- c. Attending all appointments and facilitating attendance of their child(ren).
- d. Completing Family Questionnaires & Child Questionnaires prior to the office interview.
- e. Advising the Social Investigation and Study office [(813) 276-2993] and the investigator assigned to the case, of any change of address, residence, phone number, or employment, and of final hearing dates.
- f. If an interpreter is necessary, it is the obligation of the party to provide one.

3. Unless the judge affirmatively orders otherwise below, the cost of the Social Investigation and Study shall be the standard charge of \$2,000 and shall be equally divided between the parties 50%-50%. Indigent determinations are valid for six months. **KNOWINGLY PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION IN SEEKING INDIGENT STATUS IS PUNISHABLE BY LAW AS PROVIDED IN s. 775.082.**

**\$2,000** \_\_\_\_\_ % Petitioner                      \_\_\_\_\_ % Respondent or \_\_\_\_\_ Indigent

**PAYMENTS ARE TO BE MADE PAYABLE BY CASHIER'S CHECK TO THE INVESTIGATOR WITHIN 10 DAYS OF ASSIGNMENT**; the court shall be notified and may impose sanctions against the offending party if the fee is not paid. The investigation will not begin until the fee is paid. **SERVICES ARE LIMITED TO A 50 MILE RADIUS OF THE EDGECOMB COURTHOUSE**; parties residing beyond the 50 mile service area are responsible for finding an investigator at their location and all costs and fees for that segment of the investigation. The investigator selected by the parties to complete that segment of the investigation is subject to approval by the OSIS prior to commencement.

**DEPOSING THE INVESTIGATOR AND SEEKING IN-COURT TESTIMONY IS SUBJECT OT ADDITIONAL COSTS AND FEES. A \$500 RETAINER (CASHIER'S CHECK) PAYABLE TO THE INVESTIGATOR FOR EACH EIGHT (8) HOUR DAY OF TESTIMONY IS REQUIRED.** It is the parties' responsibility to confirm the costs and fees (involving preparation, wait time and testimony) with the investigator. Cancellation less than 48 hours in advance is subject to a preparation fee (\$100). Any unused portion of the Retainer will be refunded to the issuing party by the Investigator within fourteen (14) days after testimony. **NO INVESTIGATOR SHALL BE REQUIRED TO APPEAR AT ANY DEPOSITION OR COURT HEARING WITHOUT BEING SUBPOENAED AND PROVIDED A RETAINER AT LEAST TEN (10) WORKING DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE PROPOSED DEPOSITION OR HEARING. COURT APPEARANCES SHALL BE ON A "TIME CERTAIN BASIS" WITH THE INVESTIGATOR. THE COURT WILL NOT ENTERTAIN CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST AN INVESTIGATOR WHO FAILS TO APPEAR AT A DEPOSITION OR A COURT HEARING IF A SPECIFIC DATE AND TIME IS NOT PROVIDED OR IF THE INVESTIGATOR WAS NOT SERVED BY SUBPOENA AND PROVIDED A RETAINER IN A TIMELY MANNER AS INDICATED ABOVE.**

4. The following provisions are directed to third persons or agencies who are not parties to this action:

a. Upon presentation of this Order to any agency, hospital, organization, school, person or office, including any Clerk of Court; the Department of Children and Family Services; any child-caring agencies or facilities; public and private health facilities; medical and mental health professionals (including doctors, nurses, pediatricians, psychologists, psychiatrists, counselors or their respective staffs), the investigator designated in this cause is hereby *authorized to inspect and copy any records relating to the named child(ren) and the parties without the consent of, or the signing of additional releases by, such child(ren) or the parties and to further receive related information by verbal report or through technological devices such as telephonic, fax or email.* The investigator shall not be entitled to the identity of any child abuse reporter information, pursuant to Florida law.

b. Upon presentation of this Order, the investigator shall be permitted reasonable access to the child(ren) by any agency, hospital, organization, school, person or office for the purposes of meeting, speaking with, and observing the child(ren).

c. Any and all law enforcement agencies, including the Tampa Police Department; the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office; the Temple Terrace Police Department; the Plant City Police Department; and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, are directed to release to the OSIS investigator, as a designee of this Court, copies of any and all criminal history information, as that term is defined in Section 943.045 Florida Statutes (including FCIC and NCIC information), regarding the parties involved in this litigation; their children; their spouses or significant others; any other persons living in either of the parties' homes; or anyone else identified by the OSIS investigator as having significant contact with the child(ren) who is the subject of this investigation.

5. The OSIS investigator shall maintain any information received from any of the sources noted above as confidential and shall not disclose that information to any other person, except in reports to the Court and to the parties in this cause and their counsel in accordance with Section 61.20 Florida Statutes or as otherwise directed by the Court. All parties are prohibited from further disclosure or dissemination of such information, except as provided by Florida Law.

6. Upon completion of the investigation, the appointed investigator shall furnish to the Court, counsel of record for the parties, and/or the parties themselves, a written report setting forth the investigator's findings, recommendations (if any), and the basis for them. Under ordinary circumstances, this report shall be completed, with the original filed in the court file and copies sent to the attorneys or pro se parties, within seventy-five (75) days from the date the fees enumerated in section 3, above, are paid to the assigned Investigator.

7. All correspondence related to the social investigation and study of this case, with the exception of motions to the Court, shall be submitted to the Office of Social Investigation and Study, Edgecomb Courthouse, 800 E. Twiggs Street, Room 208, Tampa, Florida 33602; (813) 276-2993.

8. Failure to comply with the terms of this order may result in sanctions against the offending party, the offending party's attorney, or both, as provided by law.

**DONE AND ORDERED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.**

---

**CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE**

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons who need special accommodation to participate in either in-court or out-of-court proceedings should phone (813) 272-7040, no later than seven (7) days prior to the court date in order to make arrangements. Hearing impaired individuals who require assistance should contact Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8771.

Copies furnished to: