

HOW TO REQUEST A COURT ORDER FOR EMANCIPATION OF A MINOR

Follow each step carefully. Each step contains forms, some of which may have extra instructions to help you.

FIRST STEPS:

- 1. MAKE SURE YOU MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS.** See the checklist at the beginning of the forms packet. Note that if you are older than 17 and 9 months, you may turn 18 and be emancipated automatically before this court process is completed.
- 2. COMPLETE THE COURT FORMS IN THIS PACKET:** Fill out all the forms completely in **black ink**.
 - **JUVENILE EMANCIPATION INFORMATION SHEET.** Complete everything but the “Case Number”. The Clerk of the Court will stamp the case number when you file the papers. You will use this case number on all Court papers you file with the Clerk in this case.
 - **MOTION TO SEAL COURT RECORD FOR REASONS OF CONFIDENTIALITY.** Complete this form if you wish to request that the Court order that case information be kept confidential and private. Once you have completed this form, submit it with the other forms you are filing with the Clerk’s Office.
 - **PETITION FOR EMANCIPATION OF A MINOR (and any appropriate attachments).** See the separate instructions for this form.
 - **CONSENT TO EMANCIPATION OF A MINOR.** If any parent or guardian consents to your emancipation have that parent complete a “**Consent**” form and sign it in the presence of a Clerk of Court or Notary Public. Consent is NOT REQUIRED, but does support your request.

NOTICE OF HEARING. Once a hearing is scheduled, Court staff will provide notice of the date, time and location of the hearing by U.S. mail to you and other parties required to receive notice.

3. MAKE COPIES AND SEPARATE YOUR PAPERS.

Assemble your papers so that you have **2 packets: one set of originals and one set of copies**. The originals will be filed by the Clerk of Court and placed in the court file; the copies will be stamped by the Clerk and returned to you to keep for your records.

ORIGINALS should include

- One (1) “**Juvenile Emancipation Information Sheet.**”
- One (1) “**Petition for Emancipation of a Minor,**” and;
- If any parent or guardian signed a “**Consent to Emancipation of a Minor,**” one (1) original signed, notarized “Consent” for each that agreed.
- One (1) “**Motion to Close Court Record for Reasons of Confidentiality,**” if applicable.

Set 2 – Copies for your records should include:

- One (1) **COPY** of the “**Petition for Emancipation of a Minor,**” and;
- If any parent or guardian signed a “**Consent to Emancipation of a Minor,**” one (1) **COPY** of each “Consent” for each that agreed.
- One (1) **COPY** of the “**Motion to Close Court Record for Reasons of Confidentiality,**” if applicable.

- 4. TAKE ORIGINALS AND COPIES OF PAPERS TO THE CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT FILING COUNTER:** The Clerk will stamp the copies and return them to you. You may file your papers at any of the following Superior Court locations:

Clerk of Superior Court
401 E. Spring St.
Kingman, AZ 86401
(928) 753-0713
Monday-Friday
8:00a-5:00p

Clerk of Superior Court
2225 Trane Road
Bullhead City, AZ 86442
(928) 758-0730
Monday-Friday
8:30a-12:00p, 1:30p-4:30p

Clerk of Superior Court
2001 College Drive
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404
(928) 453-0701
Monday-Friday
8:30a-12:00p, 1:30p-4:30p

5. PAY YOUR FILING FEE:

There are fees for filing petitions, responses, requests, motions, objections, and various forms with the court. Cash, VISA/MasterCard debit or credit cards, money order, or personal in-state checks made payable to the "Clerk of the Superior Court" are acceptable forms of payment. Go online to www.mohavecourts.az.gov for a list of current fees.

- 6.** Once the "*Petition for Emancipation of A Minor*" is filed, the Court will schedule a hearing to be held within 90 days. The Court will notify those required to receive notice of the hearing date and time. This would include your biological or adoptive parent(s), if living and their parental rights have not been terminated by Court Order, and any legal guardian(s). If you are unable to locate a parent or legal guardian, be prepared to explain to the Court at the hearing why you cannot locate that person and to prove to the Court you did everything you could to try to find the parent or legal guardian. Note that step-parents cannot give consent and need not be given notice (unless they legally adopted you).

- 7. OTHER HELP:** Court personnel can answer certain limited questions about the procedures involved, but only an attorney can give you legal advice. You can find an attorney in the yellow pages of your telephone book (or online) under "attorneys". There may be Community Legal Services to provide free legal assistance for those with limited income, or go online to www.az.bar.org for a list of court approved attorneys.