

Part 7: Details of the children

This part asks for details of children of the family. 'Children of the family' includes:

- (a) Children born to both you and the Respondent or adopted by both of you;
- (b) Other children treated by both of you as children of the family: for example your own or the Respondent's children, or children adopted by one of you;

Any children in these categories should be included on your petition.

For each child you should state:

- their full names, including surname
- their gender
- their date of birth, or you must if applicable state that they are over 18
- if the child is over 16 but under 18 you must state whether he or she is at school or college, or training for a trade, profession or vocation, or is working full time
- whether they fall under (a) or (b) above.

Statement of arrangements for children

If you or the Respondent have any children of the family:

- under 16
- over 16 but under 18 if they are at school or college, university or are training for a trade, profession or vocation

you **must** complete the statement of arrangements for children form. This form is available from the court and online at www.justice.gov.uk.

Before you send your divorce/dissolution/(judicial) separation petition to the court you should try to reach an agreement with your spouse/civil partner about the proposals for the children's future. There is space for your spouse/civil partner to sign at the end of the statement of arrangements for children form if agreement is reached. If your spouse/civil partner does not agree with the proposals they will have the opportunity at a later stage to state why and make their own proposals.

The completed statement of arrangements for children must be signed by you and, if it is agreed, by the Respondent as well. You will need to submit a copy of the completed form whether or not the Respondent has signed it, when you send your divorce/dissolution/(judicial) separation petition to the court together with a copy for the Respondent. If you are attaching health reports please supply one additional copy of the reports (2 copies in total).

You should enter details of all children who are not children of the family e.g. any children who have been born to or adopted by either you or the Respondent, in the table provided.

If there are no children of the family, or no children under the ages specified please tick the second box.

Part 8: Special assistance or facilities if you attend Court

If you or the Respondent need special assistance and/or special facilities due to a disability or impairment, please set out your requirements in full. The court staff will need to know, for example, if you want documents to be supplied in an alternative format, such as Braille or large print. They will also need to know about any specific requirements you may have on the day of the hearing, such as wheelchair access, a hearing loop, or a sign language interpreter. If you require a foreign language interpreter and are unable to provide your own, you may request that one is booked by the court.