

**Packet # 20 -PETITION FOR CONCURRENT CUSTODY BY EXTENDED FAMILY**

*When should this form be used?*

This form should be used by an **extended family member** to obtain concurrent custody of a child or children pursuant to Chapter 751, Florida Statutes. This form **should not** be used if you are a parent seeking to establish parental responsibility or time-sharing with a child or children. “Concurrent custody” means that an eligible extended family member is awarded custodial rights to care for a child or children concurrently with the child(ren)’s parent or parents.

An **Extended Family Member** is: A relative of a minor child within the third degree by blood or marriage to the parent; OR The stepparent of a minor child if the stepparent is currently married to the parent of the child and is not a party in a pending dissolution, separate maintenance, domestic violence, or other civil or criminal proceeding in any court of competent jurisdiction involving one or both of the child(ren)’s parents as an adverse party. You may file a Petition for Concurrent Custody if: You have the signed, notarized consents of the child(ren)’s legal parents; OR You are an extended family member who is caring full time for the child(ren) in the role of a substitute parent and with whom the child(ren) is (are) presently living. In addition, you must currently have physical custody of the child(ren) and have had physical custody of the child(ren) for at least 10 days in any 30-day period within the last 12 months; and not have signed, written documentation from a parent which is sufficient to enable you to do all the things necessary to care for the child(ren). If you do not meet the qualifications above, you should talk to an attorney about other options. You may also report any suspected abuse, abandonment, or neglect to the appropriate authorities. This form should be typed or printed in black ink. After completing this form, you should sign the form before a **notary public** or **deputy clerk**. You should **file** the original with the **clerk of the circuit court** in the county where you live and keep a copy for your records.