

FLORIDA'S CHILD SUPPORT BENCHBOOK

Petition for Paternity Hearing Checklist

- Swear in the parties.
- Determine if the parties were served. If so, find that parents were properly served and noticed.
- If the father was served and did not appear, make a finding that the father was properly served and adjudicate paternity by default.
- If the father appears and doesn't admit paternity, order DNA testing. Explain that if the father doesn't comply, the court can adjudicate the person as the father.
- If the father doesn't comply with order to test, issue an Order to Show Cause.
- If the DNA is positive or the father freely and voluntarily admits that he is the father, adjudicate the man as the father of the child.
- If the father is in jail, don't set child support until he is released.
- Go to Child Support Hearing Checklist.