DOMESTIC RELATIONS IN AN HOUR

An excellent resource for general family law is *Richards on Tennessee Family Law*, Third Edition, by Janet L. Richards (LexisNexis). *Coppock on Tennessee Adoption Law*, 7th Editions (Celtic Cat Publishing) is excellent for adoption and related issues such as terminations. It has excellent forms and checklists. The Family Law Section of the Tennessee Bar Association publishes and makes available to judges at no cost the Alimony Bench Book.

The AOC has the state approved forms and links to information you'll need. Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts – tncourts.gov is the home page.

Divorce Forms – there are several forms for preliminary matters such as parenting education classes, mediation, etc. The hyperlink for the general page is <u>https://www.tncourts.gov/node/707185</u> You should explore those pages, there are lots of forms and information that will be useful, even if not needed often. The most critical forms to download and save or know how to find are parenting plan and child support.



This is the link to the permanent plan. A blank example is attached hereto as Exhibit A. The link is <u>https://www.tncourts.gov/node/253</u>



With the Parenting Plan there must be a child support worksheet. The hyperlinks to child the support procedures and guidelines can be found here https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/1240/1240-02/1240-02.htm

	Officia	Tennessee Secretary of State Il Compilation of Rules and Regulations	
All Effective Rules and	Regulations > 1240 > 12	240-02	
	Rules of the	Tennessee Department of Human Services	
		Child Support Services Division	
	Chapter	Description	
	1240-02-01	Forms for Establishing and Modifying Support Orders	
	1240-02-02	Forms for Withholding of Income for Child Support	
	1240-02-03	Miscellaneous IV-D	
	1240-02-04	Child Support Guldelines	
	1240-02-05	Liens for Child Support	
	1240-02-05	Review and Adjustment of Child Support Orders	
		Tennessee Department of Human Services 615-313-4700	

The hyperlink to the actual rules and regulations (Guidelines) https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/1240/1240-02/1240-02-04.20211001.pdf

For child support, it is most useful to download to your computer the Excel worksheet. The link to that document is here <u>https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/for-families/child-support-services/child-support-guidelines/child-support-calculator-and-worksheet-1.html</u> A copy of the child support worksheet is attached hereto as Exhibit B.



If you need to use a wage assignment for child support purposes and the case is not within the Title IV-D program, the link to the wage assignments is <u>https://www.tncourts.gov/node/2083351</u> The page has two links, one leading to a sample withholding worksheet with instructions and the other to the actual form that is fillable and can be printed for use.

Orders of Protection

There are three types of orders of protection in Tennessee. The one that everyone thinks of between intimate partners and/or victims of stalking harassment Tennessee Code Annotated section 36-3-601 et seq., Lifetime Orders for victims of certain crimes as created and set out in Tenn. Code Ann. §36-3-627, and Orders of Protection for Elderly and Vulnerable Adults as set out in Tenn. Code Ann. §71-6-124. The forms for all these can be found here <u>https://www.tncourts.gov/node/305439</u>

The Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (<u>https://tncoalition.org</u>) puts out bench cards that are useful to have in reviewing elements for and actions to be taken in hearing order of protection cases. The hyperlinks to the various cards are below. Copies of them have been attached hereto as Exhibit C. If the cards are not already on your bench or in chambers, contact the Coalition and they will be happy to supply them to you. They are frequently available at conferences as well.

Within an hour it is impossible to cover all the potential matters that arise within a court having general domestic relations jurisdiction. I hope this general introduction has been helpful. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call another judge in your district or me if you're really desperate.