

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 11-07**

Temporary Appearances for the Paternity and Child Support Branch

WHEREAS, each year over 10,000 cases are pending in the Paternity and Child Support Branch of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to establish, enforce, and modify parentage, child support, and medical support orders; and

WHEREAS, the majority of parents do not have legal counsel in these cases; and

WHEREAS, the Family Court Self-Help Center provides legal and referral information, but not legal advice or representation, to parents in these cases; and

WHEREAS, some parents need legal advice and/or temporary, limited-scope representation in these cases; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide unrepresented, low-income parents in parentage and support cases with the opportunity to obtain free legal counsel immediately, it is appropriate to make temporary, limited-scope representation available in these cases;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is by the Court,

ORDERED, that counsel who are providing representation without charge for low-income parents in parentage and support cases are hereby authorized to file in the Paternity and Child Support Branch the attached Praecipe, entitled "Paternity and Child Support Branch Temporary Appearance," which notes a temporary appearance; it is further

ORDERED, that if counsel files a "Paternity and Child Support Branch Temporary Appearance" Praecipe, the appearance of that counsel is withdrawn at the conclusion of the day in court, without the necessity of filing a motion to withdraw; it is further

ORDERED, that when counsel who has filed a "Paternity and Child Support Temporary Appearance" Praecipe on behalf of a client appears in open court, he or she must inform the judge that the appearance is a temporary one; it is further

ORDERED, that nothing in this order shall preclude counsel appearing under its provisions from subsequently filing a separate Praecipe entering a general appearance for the duration of the litigation or until such time as a motion to withdraw is filed and granted; it is further

ORDERED, that any appearance entered that does not use the “Paternity and Child Support Branch Temporary Appearance” Praecipe constitutes a general appearance, to withdraw from which requires a motion to withdraw; and it is further

ORDERED, that this Administrative Order shall go into effect on June 1, 2011, and shall remain in effect until further order of the Court.

SO ORDERED.

BY THE COURT

DATE: May 27, 2011

/s/

Lee F. Satterfield
Chief Judge

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