DEFENDANT(S)' ANSWER TO COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL CONTEMPT	DOCKET NUMBER	**Trial Court of Massachusetts Juvenile Court Department**

Plaintiff(s) _____

v. _____

Defendant(s) _____

_____

DIVISION

I/We, the Defendant(s) in the above mentioned action, understand that I/we must state fully and specifically what facts set out in the plaintiff(s)' complaint I/we deny and/or admit. I/We may also provide additional facts relevant to the issue of contempt. I/We do so as follows (attach another sheet if you require additional space):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Date

Attorney (if applicable)

Address

Telephone No. _____

Defendant's Signature

Defendant's Signature

Agent's Signature (if applicable)

Address (Defendant(s) or Agent if applicable)

Telephone No. _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Once completed, you must serve the Plaintiff(s), the Plaintiff(s)' Agent, or the Plaintiff(s)' Attorney with a copy of the Answer to the address provided in the complaint. Service should be completed by mailing the Answer by first-class mail, postage prepaid. You must also mail **one** copy of the Answer to the Clerk-Magistrate, first-class mail, postage prepaid. If the Plaintiff does not provide an address, mail **two** copies to the Clerk-Magistrate.

RETURN OF SERVICE

☐ I certify under pains and penalties of perjury that I have served a copy of the Answer to the plaintiff(s) by first-class mail, postage prepaid. Attached is a copy of the Answer for filing.

☐ I certify that I was unable to serve the Answer for the following reason: _____

_____

_____ . Attached are two copies of the answer.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DEFENDANT(S)

The Plaintiff(s) has/have filed a Complaint for Civil Contempt naming you as the Defendant(s). Enclosed in this mailing are the following documents:

1) A copy of the Plaintiff(s)' Complaint for Civil Contempt. The Complaint contains the Plaintiff(s)' claim and request for court action. For example, to enforce the terms of a post-adoption agreement along with information about how the agreement was violated;
2) Defendant(s)' Answer Form (the front of this document) which contains Return of Service; and
3) Order of Notice issued by the Juvenile Court requiring you to appear in court.

Do I need an attorney? You are not required to bring an attorney to the hearing, but you may do so if you wish. By law, the court cannot appoint an attorney for you even if you cannot afford one.

How Should I complete the Answer and Return of Service Form? You should type or print your answer in the space provided on the form. You should clearly and concisely state which, if any, of the Plaintiff(s)' claims you deny. In addition, you should explain why the court should not order what the Plaintiff(s) has/have requested. Finally, you should sign and date the Answer and complete the Return of Service by indicating whether:

1) you mailed a copy of your Answer by first-class mail, postage prepaid, or
2) you were unable to mail a copy of your Answer and mailed two copies of your Answer to the court.

Once you have completed the Answer form, you must mail or file one copy of your Answer in the Clerk-Magistrate's office at the address provided in the Order of Notice. You must also serve the Plaintiff(s), the Plaintiff(s)' Agent, or the Plaintiff(s)' Attorney (see Complaint) with a copy of the Answer to the address provided in the complaint in accordance with your answer in the Return of Service. If you are unable to serve the Plaintiff(s), mail two copies of the complaint to the Clerk-Magistrate's office. One copy will be filed with the clerk's office and the other will be mailed to the Plaintiff(s). (If Plaintiff(s)' address is left blank on the complaint form, by request of the Plaintiff(s)', the Clerk's office will forward the Answer to the Plaintiff(s)).

What is the Order of Notice? The Order of Notice tells you when and where you need to come to court.

What happens if you cannot come to court on the date contained in the summons? Both parties must appear in court on the date the case is scheduled for hearing. If you cannot come to court on that date, contact the clerk's office immediately upon receipt of your court date. Do not wait until the last minute. **If you fail to appear for the hearing, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action.**