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**See** [**this article**](https://www.custodyxchange.com/topics/custody/steps/declaration-letter.php) **for more guidance on declaration letters.**

City, State 54321

December 15, 2026

RE: Case #999999999

To the honorable Judge Martinez:

Jamie Jones and I married in September 2017. Our first child, Nora Martin, was born in October 2019 and our second child, David Martin, was born in July 2021. I am requesting sole legal custody and primary physical custody with alternating weekend visits for Jamie. I am also requesting the guideline child support amount, with additional expenses for our children’s school tuition. The specific details of my requests are included in the attached proposed parenting plan and parenting time schedule.

In August 2026, after years of strife and irreconcilable differences, Jamie and I decided to divorce. He moved out of our house and is currently living in a condo on the other side of town. Nora and David have been living with me and have, on average, three visits a month with Jamie. Since our separation, they have only ever spent two nights at time with him. Despite this, he is requesting majority custody and does not want to pay the full child support amount. I feel strongly that his custody requests are not in the best interests of our children.

I work 20 hours per week as a veterinary technician, in addition to providing almost all of our children’s care. Jamie is a real estate attorney and works, on average, 50 hours per week, while also spending several hours per week socializing with clients and networking. Since our children were born, I have been their primary caregiver. I take care of their hygiene needs, plan and prepare all their meals, buy and wash their clothes, make and take them to doctor’s and dental appointments, take them to school, help with their homework, coordinate their activities, etc. Jamie has occasionally picked them up from school and taken them to activities. I am also the parent they come to with problems or when they feel upset. Throughout our marriage, Jamie’s only extended parenting time has been on the weekends when I am at work.

My proposed parenting time schedule essentially keeps the same parenting arrangement that Nora and David have had their entire lives. They will live with me full time and be with Jamie from Saturday morning to Monday morning every other weekend. I am also requesting sole legal custody because Jamie has always deferred to me on decisions about their education and medical care.

Exhibit C (attached) shows a visual report of our exact parenting time since September 28, 2026. It shows that Nora and David have been with me 79 percent of the time and with Jamie for the remaining 21 percent.

I believe that Jamie is requesting majority custody not because he thinks it is best for Samantha and Eleanor, but because he is trying to use our daughters to lash out at me. In the attached email sent from Jamie to myself on September 25, 2026 (Exhibit D) after I told him that I had met with an attorney about filing for divorce and seeking primary custody, Jamie wrote: “You can’t embarrass me like this. I’ll make sure you don’t get custody.”

[*More supporting facts, examples, and explanations of attached evidence regarding parenting time and legal custody. Can be several paragraphs or pages.]*

Regarding child support, please see the attached guideline support worksheets and supporting financial documents (Exhibits J – N). As a real estate attorney, Jamie makes nearly five times what I make as a part-time veterinary technician. He has been the primary earner throughout out marriage, and his high earnings have allowed us to send our children to the best private school in the city. I am asking that he pay the guideline amount and their school tuition so Nora and David can have the same standard of living and high-quality education that they have had their entire lives.

[*More supporting facts, examples, and explanations of attached evidence regarding child support and other financial issues (e.g., spousal support). Can be several paragraphs.]*

Given the information provided above, I am asking the court to order my proposed parenting plan and parenting time schedule, giving me sole legal custody and primary physical custody with alternating weekend visits for Jamie. I am also asking that Jamie be ordered to pay the guideline child support amount, plus pay our children’s school tuition.

I declare, under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California, that the above is true to the best of my knowledge.

Sincerely,

Susan Fredrick