

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN THE INTEREST OF:

CASE NO.: 56_____

minor child(ren).

_____ /

CONSENT TO PETITION FOR DEPENDENCY

I am _____, the Father/ Mother of the child(ren) subject to this petition.

I am appearing on the date listed below in the Circuit Court in and for St. Lucie County, Florida, and after being advised by the Court of the dependency allegations against me; of my right to a trial on the merits; and the consequences of waiving my rights and entering a consent, I do hereby enter this consent to the petition for dependency.

In so doing, I am swearing under oath before the Court as follows:

1. My consent is made voluntarily, no one has forced me to enter this consent.
2. I am not under the influence of alcohol or drugs at this time, and I fully understand my rights.
3. I am _____ years of age, have completed _____ years of formal education, and;
 - a. I understand the English language; or,
 - b. I do not speak English, but these proceedings are being interpreted by a Court approved interpreter.
4. I have read the dependency petition and understand the nature of the allegations against me.
5. I agree there is a factual basis to legally support the entry of this consent, and feel that this consent is in the best interest of my child(ren).

6. I understand that by entering this consent it does not mean that I agree with all of the allegations against me.
7. I understand that I have an absolute right to have a trial before a judge to contest the allegations against me by a preponderance of the evidence.
8. I understand that by entering this consent that I am waiving my right to a trial concerning the allegations, and that there will be no trial. I also understand that by doing so I am waiving my right to cross examine witnesses for the state, presenting any defenses I may have, and to calling my own witnesses in my defense.
9. I understand that there are no promises other than what is contained in this petition, and that any other promises made to me by any person are not binding on the Court.
10. I understand that once this consent is accepted by the Court, the disposition of the case is within the discretion of the Court, considering all of the evidence, testimony or other relevant evidence, regardless of any other outcome that may have been discussed or represented to me.
11. I understand that based upon the Court's order at disposition, I will be offered a case plan with tasks to achieve in order to resolve this case for the best interest of my child(ren), and that I have the right to assistance in completion of the case plan by the Department of Children and Families, my attorney and service providers. I understand that there are strict timelines that apply in which I must complete the case plan.
12. I understand the consequences of my consent, including the possibility that the Department of Children and Families may file a petition for termination of my parental rights over my child(ren), and I could lose all parental rights as a parent if the Department of Children and Families offers me the necessary services and I fail to substantially comply with the terms of the case plan that I have agreed to.
13. I understand that if termination of parental rights is initiated, that a separate petition must be filed. If I qualify for court appointed counsel, I will be provided an attorney and have a right to a separate trial on those issues.
14. I understand that I have the right to representation by legal counsel at each stage of the dependency proceedings.
15. I understand that I have the right to appeal the judgment and dependency disposition imposed by filing an appeal within thirty (30) days of the order, and I will be provided legal counsel if I am so qualified.
16. At the entry of this consent:

- a. I am knowingly, voluntarily and intelligently waiving my right to be represented by an attorney, even though I have been offered that opportunity by the Court.
- b. I am present in court with my attorney, who has reviewed this consent form with me, has fully explained the plea and its consequences to me, and who has answered all of my questions.

DATED: _____

PARENT

ATTORNEY FOR PARENT

SWORN to by the above named parent before me on the above date. I find that the parent is alert, intelligent, understands the allegations and the nature and consequences of entering this consent, and has entered the consent freely and voluntarily.

DATE: _____

MICHAEL LINN, Circuit Judge

DATE: _____

, Magistrate

FILED IN OPEN COURT ON THE ABOVE DATE