

PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY OR ATTORNEY NAME: <b>L. Kim Aguirre</b> FIRM NAME: <b>Gromis &amp; Aguirre</b> STREET ADDRESS: <b>6700 N. First Street, #135</b> CITY: <b>Fresno</b> TELEPHONE NO.: <b>(559)435-0437</b> EMAIL ADDRESS: <b>kimaguirre@galegal.net</b> ATTORNEY FOR (name): <b>Joaquin Arambula</b>	STATE BAR NUMBER: <b>81445</b>  STATE: <b>CA</b> ZIP CODE: <b>93710</b> FAX NO.: <b>(559)435-6638</b>
<b>FOR COURT USE ONLY</b>	
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF <b>Fresno</b> STREET ADDRESS: <b>1130 O Street</b> MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: <b>Fresno 93721-2220</b> BRANCH NAME: <b>B. F. Sisk Courthouse</b>	
PETITIONER: <b>Elizabeth Arambula</b> RESPONDENT: <b>Joaquin Arambula</b> OTHER PARENT/PARTY:	
<b>RESPONSIVE DECLARATION TO REQUEST FOR ORDER</b>	
HEARING DATE: <b>March 17, 2026</b> TIME: <b>1:30 p.m.</b>	DEPARTMENT OR ROOM: <b>203</b> CASE NUMBER: <b>26CEFL00369</b>

Read *Information Sheet: Responsive Declaration to Request for Order* (form [FL-320-INFO](#)) for more information about this form.

1.  RESTRAINING ORDER INFORMATION
  - a.  No domestic violence restraining/protective orders are now in effect between the parties in this case.
  - b.  I agree that one or more domestic violence restraining/protective orders are now in effect between the parties in this case.
  
2.  CHILD CUSTODY
  - VISITATION (PARENTING TIME)
    - a.  I consent to the order requested for child custody (legal and physical custody).
    - b.  I consent to the order requested for visitation (parenting time).
    - c.  I do not consent to the order requested for  child custody  visitation (parenting time)
      - but I consent to the following order:  
**SEE ATTACHED DECLARATION**
  
3.  CHILD SUPPORT
  - a. I have completed and filed a current *Income and Expense Declaration* (form [FL-150](#)) or, if eligible, a current *Financial Statement (Simplified)* (form [FL-155](#)) to support my responsive declaration.
  - b.  I consent to the order requested.
  - c.  I consent to guideline support.
  - d.  I do not consent to the order requested  but I consent to the following order:
  
4.  SPOUSAL OR DOMESTIC PARTNER SUPPORT
  - a. I have completed and filed a current *Income and Expense Declaration* (form [FL-150](#)) to support my responsive declaration.
  - b.  I consent to the order requested.
  - c.  I do not consent to the order requested  but I consent to the following order:

PETITIONER: <b>Elizabeth Arambula</b> RESPONDENT: <b>Joaquin Arambula</b> OTHER PARENT/PARTY:	CASE NUMBER: <b>26CEFL00369</b>
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5.  PROPERTY CONTROL
- a.  I consent to the order requested.
- b.  I do not consent to the order requested  but I consent to the following order:
- 
6.  ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS
- a. I have completed and filed a current *Income and Expense Declaration* (form [FL-150](#)) to support my responsive declaration.
- b. I have completed and filed with this form a *Supporting Declaration for Attorney's Fees and Costs Attachment* (form [FL-158](#)) or a declaration that addresses the factors covered in that form.
- c.  I consent to the order requested.
- d.  I do not consent to the order requested  but I consent to the following order:
- 
7.  OTHER ORDERS REQUESTED
- a.  I consent to the order requested.
- b.  I do not consent to the order requested  but I consent to the following order:  
**SEE ATTACHED DELCARATION**
- 
8.  TIME FOR SERVICE / TIME UNTIL HEARING
- a.  I consent to the order requested.
- b.  I do not consent to the order requested  but I consent to the following order:
- 
9.  FACTS TO SUPPORT my responsive declaration are listed below. The facts that I write and attach to this form cannot be longer than 10 pages, unless the court gives me permission.  [Attachment 9.](#)  
**SEE ATTACHED DECLARATION**

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information provided in this form and all attachments is true and correct.

Date:

**Joaquin Arambula**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE OF DECLARANT)

I, Joaquin Arambula, declare:

1. I am the Respondent/husband in this action. The following is true to my knowledge and I could testify to such in a court of law.

**I. SOBRIETY AND SOBRIETY MONITORING**

1. **Sobriety.** I am committed to abstaining from the use of alcohol, marijuana, and all non-prescribed controlled substances at all times, continuously, not just during my custodial periods.

2. I voluntarily entered into and successfully completed rehab on February 6, 2026. I chose to improve my life and be a better father for my children. I recognized I had a disease, and I am committed to a life of sobriety.

3. I have abstained from the use of alcohol and marijuana since late December 2026 and am prepared to demonstrate my continued sobriety to the court.

4. **Soberlink Remote Alcohol Monitoring.** I have been voluntarily participating in Soberlink monitoring with facial recognition verification four (4) times per day—morning, midday, evening, and bedtime—since February 16, 2026. The most recent report confirms that through March 7, I have had 114 compliant tests, with no missed or non-compliant tests. I have made all results available to Petitioner in real time, but she has yet to enroll to receive notification.

5. **Drug Testing.** I have voluntarily submitted to two urine toxicology tests at a Quest SAMHSA-compliant certified facility to detect ten illicit and prescription drugs (amphetamines, cocaine, marijuana, opiates, PCP, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, methadone, methaqualone, and propoxyphene). Both tests were negative.

6. **Parent Requested Drug Testing.** If this court feels further drug testing is needed for me to see my children or have meaningful time with them, I request the court order both parents to participate in a testing regimen in which, within eight (8) hours of the request of either parent, the other parent shall submit to a 10-panel urine toxicology screen test (witnessed collection) at a SAMHSA-compliant laboratory. If either parent is unable to test within the eight (8) hour window due to a legitimate business reason, the parent shall test the following day before 12:00 noon. The certified testing facility will provide a referral to a SAMHSA-compliant

laboratory for out-of-county and/or out-of-state testing. If the presumptive drug screen is positive, the testing agency shall use a more specific, alternate chemical testing method (GC/MS) to confirm the results. The requesting party must pay for the costs of the test. In the event either parent submits three (3) consecutive negative tests, the requesting parent is not allowed to request additional tests without further order of the court.

7. **Random Urinalysis Drug Testing.** Petitioner insists random weekly drug testing is necessary to demonstrate my sobriety. Random weekly testing is expensive and, more importantly, the four-hour window is difficult to accommodate as I have little control over my schedule and three-hour commutes between Fresno and Sacramento two to four times per week.

8. Were the court inclined to require random urinalysis drug testing, I request that the order require a random 10-panel urine toxicology test once per month through any Quest or independent SAMHSA-compliant, certified facility, should I not be in Fresno at the time testing is required. Were I unable to test within eight (8) hours of a request due to a verified legitimate business reason, I request that I be able to test the following day before 12:00 noon

9. **Consequences of a Positive (Dirty) or Missed Test.** Petitioner proposes the same draconian consequences for *one* missed test or one positive test, without considering the totality of the circumstances. Petitioner insists, *"All unsupervised parenting time shall be immediately suspended, and [my] parenting time shall be limited to professionally supervised visitation only,"* at my expense. Petitioner even refused to agree that supervision could be conducted by a 'reliable family member,' alleging paternal family members are not appropriate supervisors.

10. In the event of a positive test and/or missed test, I request the other party may file an ex-parte motion for modification of parenting time, with both parents deemed to have stipulated to an Order Shortening Time to allow the matter to move forward expeditiously. I further request the court consider the totality of the circumstances in reaching a decision, such as the parent's testing history, and documented efforts to maintain sobriety and participate in counseling sessions.

11. In the event either parent is charged or arrested for any drug or alcohol related offense, this may be considered a change of circumstance and the court's orders may be modified.

**12. Recovery Program Participation.** I am actively and consistently participating in AA meetings and working with a sponsor, which I have found very beneficial. I have attended over 90 AA meetings over the past 72 days.

**13. Gaming.** I admit to having gotten sucked in the Raid Shadow Legends video game, eventually rising to be one of the top 25 players in the world. I am proud to report that I have given up video games, which provides me time to focus on my recovery. I only wish I could spend some of that time with my girls.

## **II. PETITIONER'S UNFOUNDED ACCUSATIONS.**

**14. Ring camera accusation.** I vehemently deny the ring camera documents my use of a vape pen and request Petitioner produce this purported video footage. These allegations are totally false.

**15. Petitioner's unfounded safety concerns.** My wife continues to deny me access to my children unless I give in to her unreasonable financial demands and draconian test consequences. I am baffled as to *why now* Petitioner professes to have "significant concerns about the children's safety and wellbeing." ***In the thirty days before I went to rehab, I had sole responsibility for the children for two weeks:***

**16. A weekend trip to Disneyland with all 3 girls and her nephew in early December,**

**17. A weekend in mid-December when I cared for our two youngest children, while she and our eldest daughter, travelled to Sacramento to visit a friend,**

**18. Five days after Christmas, which I spent with two of our three daughters at a family gathering in Cambria, and**

**19. A weekend in early January when I cared for our two oldest girls, while she and our youngest daughter, travelled to Carmel to visit a friend.**

**20.** Furthermore, Petitioner often asked me to break away from work and/or campaign activities to pick our daughters up from school, while she took care of personal and household matters, which she never complained about.

**21.** Our daughters are 10, 13 and 14; they are strong, articulate young women who would not hesitate to speak up had they any concerns for their safety.

**22. Work-related accusations.**

**23.** Throughout our 15-year marriage, I have worked long hours in demanding careers which involve direct and frequent interaction— with patients while an emergency room doctor during the early years and with constituents and the general public over the past ten years as an elected official. I have consistently taken my job responsibilities seriously. Day in and day out, I work in a public setting, regularly meeting with concerned citizens and lobbyists, interacting with staff in my Fresno office and the Capitol, attending press conferences, and participating in legislative Committee hearings and Floor sessions. Some refer to it as living in a fishbowl. If I were inebriated during any of those times, it would be near impossible to hide. Nor have I received any complaints or concerns from my district staff, Capitol staff, legislative colleagues, the California Highway Patrol patrolling the Capitol, and the Sergeants who drove me home from the Capitol, nor from my constituents. The sergeants regularly drive legislators around the city to attend functions or get to and from the Capitol.

**24. Alarm system.** While in rehab, I received alarm notifications to my email, reporting exits and reentries in the wee hours of the day. For example, from 4:53 a.m until 7:33 a.m. on January 7, and from 1:37 a.m. until 5:30 a.m. on January 24. After I became aware of this strange, reckless pattern, I removed her ability to control the alarm from her cell phone, but she maintained access via the key pad, the only method I've used. Petitioner has deleted selective alarm data, after I documented several instances.

**25.** I am concerned this pattern may continue and our children are being neglected and/or endangered. I request the Petitioner be ordered to produce the ring camera video for review.

**III. CHILD CUSTODY AND PARENTING TIME.**

**26. Joint legal custody.** I am requesting joint legal custody where we share the rights and responsibilities for making major, long-term decisions regarding our children's health, education, and welfare. Requiring us to consult each other on significant matters like schooling, non-emergency medical care, and religious training is in our children's best interests. If we reach an impasse and require a tiebreaker, I request we select a mutually agreeable neutral therapist

to break the tie. I do not agree with my wife having the final say in important decisions once she believes we've reached an impasse.

27. **Joint physical custody.** I request joint physical custody of our three daughters effective immediately. Continued and consistent contact with our daughters is critical to maintain stability and foster emotional security. It ensures our children feel loved and supported by both parents.

28. I request a 50/50 timeshare split effective immediately, with each parent to begin their parenting time on alternating weeks, every Friday at the conclusion of school. I am ready to begin a 50/50 timeshare split as soon as the court permits and preferably by this Friday.

29. I am prepared to demonstrate my continued sobriety to the court through my many negative Soberlink and urine tests. If the court so requires, I propose an initial parenting schedule of every other weekend beginning Thursday after school (or 3:00 p.m. if there is no school) through Monday at the commencement of school (or at 8:30 a.m. if there is not school), with my parenting time to increase to alternating weeks within a short, pre-determined time period so long as no sobriety issues arise, to begin at the commencement of Spring break on March 27, 2026, and no later than May 15, 2026, my birthday weekend.

30. Since Petitioner has denied me any access to my children, without a court order, I reiterate my request that a 50/50 parenting schedule begin immediately. Given the contentious nature of our divorce and the publicity surrounding these proceedings, I believe it is important to resolve the custody timeshare sequencing once and for all.

31. **Drug-free and sober environment.** It is the responsibility of *both* parents to provide our children with a drug-free and sober environment I would request that when the children are in the care of either parent, that parent shall not associate with anyone who is abusing alcohol or using illicit drugs. I also believe both parents should abstain from the abuse of alcohol 24 hours prior to and during any physical contact with the children. If either parent appears to be in violation, then the other party may call law enforcement to make a determination. Any violations may be considered a change in circumstance and taken into consideration in future custody and visitation matters.

32. **Right of First Refusal.** I am requesting that if either parent requires day care for the child or the children for a duration of eight (8) hours or more, that parent shall notify the other parent of the need for such daycare and shall provide the other parent with the option to provide that care.

33. **Co-parenting Program.** I request the court order both parents to participate in co-parenting classes. We are struggling to communicate in a healthy manner and would each benefit from co-parenting classes designed to help divorced couples reduce conflict, improve communication, and prioritize the children's well-being.

34. **Children's Counseling.** I also request the court order our three children participate in outpatient counseling with a licensed mental health clinician, with the scope, nature, frequency and duration of counseling to be determined by each child's treating therapist.

35. **Communications with my children.**

36. I have not seen my children since I voluntarily left on January 6, 2026, to enter rehab. Petitioner has denied me any visits with them since my return on February 6, without a court order. So, I have had to communicate via text.

#### **IV. FINANCIAL CONCERNS.**

37. While in rehab, I became aware that the savings were being depleted at an alarming rate. I noticed credit card charges for thousands of dollars for new shoes and even more on a new wardrobe of luxurious clothes, all during the time she was requesting a divorce. I therefore transferred what I consider to be my separate property funds into a savings account for safekeeping.

38. I left sufficient funds in our joint checking account to cover our monthly household expenses, well aware my wages and per diem expense checks were on direct deposit and would replenish the account to cover our regular household expenses. I assured Petitioner that I would continue to assume responsibility for all household expenses.

39. Because of Petitioner's pattern of lavish spending over the past many months after our return to Fresno, I paid off our outstanding credit card balance of \$13,868 and closed out her account.

40. After Petitioner called my therapist at Reflections (rehab) to complain that I was not taking her request for a divorce seriously, I began to separate out expenses that were hers alone, e.g. her cell phone and car insurance to make it clear I had heard her.

41. On our return to Fresno last summer, we paid \$6,000 to join the Fig Garden Racquet Club, which requires monthly membership fees of \$300 plus related food expenses and lessons. Our children are involved in numerous activities both after school and on weekends and do not use the Club enough to justify the expenses. When I attempted to sell our membership, Petitioner blocked the sale. I have transferred my interest in the \$6,000 entry fee in her favor, subject to the jurisdiction of this court to categorize those funds. If she wants to continue the membership, she is free to do so.

42. **Full Accounting.** I will provide this court with a full accounting of the \$919,000 transferred from the savings account, which has a current balance of approximately \$859,000. The funds are intact, minus necessary expenses, e.g. my rehab, my attorney's retainer, and \$20,000 transferred to my attorney's client trust account to reimburse Petitioner \$10,000 for moving expenses and \$10,000 towards her attorney's fees.

**V. TEMPORARY CHILD SUPPORT AND SPOUSAL SUPPORT.**

43. Petitioner's demand for \$27, 227 in family support is excessive and unreasonable. We both must learn to tighten our belts and live within our means now that we have two households to maintain. I would also respectfully request this court make a separate order for child support and spousal support.

44. The salary quoted is correct in the XSpouse calculations. However, the funds in our savings account were generated by non-recurring distributions arising from my Grandpa's generosity and passing.

45. During COVID's prolonged online learning, Petitioner wanted to move the family to Sacramento. Initially, we thought this would be temporary and rented a small home. When schools reopened, I was delighted that Petitioner decided she wanted the family to stay in Sacramento. At her urging, we purchased an expensive home in Sacramento with my separate property savings used for the downpayment. While having two households drove up our living

expenses, this was to be short-term as the family planned to return to Fresno when my term was done.

46. Petitioner's \$27,227 request each month for family support is excessive and unreasonable, and her requested monthly expenses are extravagant, including \$5,000 per month for travel, \$2,500 for groceries, \$2,500 for restaurants, and \$1,500 in personal care.

#### **VI. PETITIONER'S MOVE OUT.**

47. My wife chose to move out a few days before I completed rehab with no notice and removed the majority of our furniture, furnishings, and the children's clothes. I learned only after a friend reported two large moving trucks in front of my home. While I did not agree to her exclusive use of our home, as I had already registered this address with the Fresno City Clerk, a prerequisite to filing to be a City Council candidate, I was willing to share it with her, while we figured something out. For weeks after she moved out, I had no idea where my children were residing.

48. She left the home a wreck, with no mattresses and very few clothes for our girls. She took what she wanted with no discussion. To ease the children's return, I focused on getting the house clean and replacing furniture and basics. I sought the girls' input on new purchases for their rooms and pots and pans to replace items taken, so they would be comfortable when they stayed with me. While the original price of the dressers, mattresses and bedframe I purchased was \$26,000, I purchased them on clearance, for approximately \$5,500.

#### **VII. REQUEST TO SEAL COURT DOCUMENTS.**

49. At this juncture, I have no desire to seal the court file. Petitioner's initial email included language that privacy could not be guaranteed unless I agreed to her unreasonable demands, which felt coercive. I want to clear my name in public.

#### **VIII. SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

For the above stated reasons, I respectfully request the Court order the following:

1. **Joint Legal Custody.** The parents shall share joint legal custody.
2. **Joint Physical Custody and Parenting Schedule.** The parents shall share joint physical custody of the children. I am requesting a 50/50 parenting schedule on an

alternating week schedule effective immediately, beginning every Friday at the conclusion of school. Petitioner has unlawfully withheld my children for months, without a court order. If the court prefers to phase this in while I continue to demonstrate my sobriety to this court, I request we progress to a 50/50 parenting schedule within a short, pre-determined time period, to begin at the commencement of Spring break, March 27, 2026, and no later than May 15, my birthday weekend.

3. **Right of First Refusal.** If either parent requires day care for the child or children for a duration of eight (8) hours or more, that parent shall notify the other parent of the need for such daycare and shall provide the other parent with the option to provide that care.
4. **Co-Parenting and Child Counseling.** Both parents shall participate in co-parenting classes. I request a finding that counseling for the children would be in their best interests and order the children to participate in outpatient counseling with a licensed mental health clinician, with the scope, nature, frequency and duration of counseling to be determined by each child's treating therapist.
5. **Drug-free and sober environment.** *Both* parent shall provide our children with a drug-free and sober environment when the children are in the care of either parent and should abstain from the abuse of alcohol 24 hours prior to and during any physical contact with the children.
6. **Sobriety and Recovery Program Participation.** I agree to abstain from alcohol and THC, to continue use of Soberlink four (4) times per day. I agree to continue regular attendance at AA meetings and work with my sponsor. I agree to submit to a parent-requested drug testing on demand regimen but respectfully request both parents be subject to this testing regimen. If either parent submits three (3) consecutive negative 10-panel urine toxicology drug tests, the requesting parent is not allowed to request additional tests without further order of the court. If the court orders random urinalysis drug testing, I request random testing be ordered

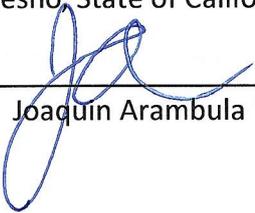
once per month through any Quest or independent SAMHSA-compliant, certified facility, with additional time to test if I am unable to test within the four (4) hour window due to a legitimate business reason.

7. **Consequences of a Positive Test or Relapse.** In the event a parent submits a positive test or refuses to complete the test, the requesting parent may file an ex-parte motion for modification of parenting time, along with a stipulation by both parents for an order shortening time to allow the matter to move forward expeditiously. I am requesting the court consider the totality of the circumstances, including but not limited to the positive test result(s), the parent's testing history, and, if appropriate, documented efforts to maintain sobriety and participate in counseling sessions in considering the children's best interests.
8. **Temporary Child Support:** I agree to pay temporary child support, based on the attached XSpouse Calculator Report.
9. **Temporary Spousal Support:** I agree to pay temporary spousal support, based on the attached XSpouse Calculator Report.
10. **College Savings Accounts.** The court shall authorize the deposit of \$100,000 for each of our three children into a college savings (529) account to be established, for a total of \$300,000.
11. **Full Accounting.** I agree to provide a full accounting to the court of marital assets. If the court so orders, I will place all remaining funds transferred from my savings account into a trust account, with no disbursement pending court order.
12. **Such Other and Further Relief** as the Court deems just and proper.

My primary request is that I be allowed to see my children as soon as possible. My marriage may have fallen apart, but my love for my children remains strong.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this document was executed in the County of Fresno, State of California, on the date set forth below.

Dated: March 16, 2026

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joaquin Arambula

New Case

2026

Xspouse 2025-1.2-CA

Monthly Figures

Fixed Shares	Father Mother		Monthly Figures		Cash Flow		
			2026		Guideline	Proposed	
Number of children	0	3			Combined net spendable	12974	12974
Percent time with NCP	49.99%	0.00%			Percent change	0%	0%
Filing status	HH/MLA SINGLE		<b>GUIDELINE</b>				
Number of exemptions	4	1	<b>Nets (adjusted)</b>		<b>Father</b>		
Wages and salary	10757	2929	Father	10044	Payment cost/benefit	-3116	-3116
Self employed income	0	0	Mother	2930	Net spendable income	6841	6841
Other taxable income	2000	0	Total	12974	Change from guideline	0	0
TANF CS received	0	0	<b>Support</b>		% of combined spendable	53%	53%
Other nontaxable income	0	0	Addons	0	% of saving over guideline	0%	0%
New spouse income	0	0	Guideln CS	2270	Total taxes	2690	2690
Employee 401-k contribution	0	0	S.Clara SS	933	Dep. exemption value	0	0
Adjustments to income	0	0	Total	3203	# withholding allowances	0	0
SS paid prev marriage	0	0			Net wage paycheck	7778	7778
CS paid prev marriage	0	0			<b>Mother</b>		
Health insurance	23	0	<b>Proposed</b>		Payment cost/benefit	3177	3177
Other medical expenses	0	0	<b>Tactic 9</b>		Net spendable income	6133	6133
Property tax expenses	0	0	CS	2270	Change from guideline	0	0
Ded interest expense	0	0	SS	933	% of combined spendable	47%	47%
Contribution deduction	0	0	Total	3203	% of saving over guideline	0%	0%
Misc tax deductions	0	0	Saving	0	Total taxes	-1	-1
Qualified business income deduction	0	0	Releases	0	Dep. exemption value	0	0
Required union dues	0	0			# withholding allowances	0	0
Mandatory retirement	0	0			Net wage paycheck	2355	2355
Hardship deduction	0	0					
Other GDL deductions	0	0					
Child care expenses	0	0					

Father pays Guideline CS, Guideline SS, Proposed CS, Proposed SS

FC 4055 checking: ON

Per Child Information

All children	DOB	Timeshare	cce(F)	cce(M)	Addons Payor	Basic CS Payor	Pres CS Payor
		50 - 50	0	0	0 Father	2,270 Father	2,270 Father
	0000-00-00	49 - 51	0	0	0 Father	429 Father	429 Father
	0000-00-00	49 - 51	0	0	0 Father	650 Father	650 Father
	0000-00-00	49 - 51	0	0	0 Father	1,191 Father	1,191 Father

L. Kim Aguirre