

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA FAMILY LAW RULES OF PROCEDURE FORM 12.913(c), AFFIDAVIT OF DILIGENT SEARCH (04/08)

When should this form be used?

This form is to be used with **Notice of Action**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.913(a), to obtain **constructive service** (also called service by publication) on the legal father in any action or proceeding to determine paternity which may result in termination of the legal father's parental rights.

You must disclose the last known address of the legal father. A last known address cannot be unknown. This form includes a checklist of places you must look for information on the location of the legal father. You have to look in all of these places, and the court must believe that you have made a very serious effort to get information about the person's location and that you have followed up on any information you received.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. After completing this form, you should sign the form before a **notary public** or **deputy clerk**. You should **file** the original and a **Notice of Action** Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.913(a), with the **clerk of the circuit court** in the county where your petition for dissolution of marriage is filed. You should keep a copy for your records.

Where can I look for more information?

Before proceeding, you should read General Information for Self-Represented Litigants found at the beginning of these forms. For further information, see rule 12.070, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, rule 1.070(e) and (f), Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, and section 409.257, Florida Statutes.

Special notes...

Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900(a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

