

CHAPTER 71
UNIFORM FAMILY LAW ARBITRATION RULES

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CHAPTER 71

UNIFORM FAMILY LAW ARBITRATION RULES

Rule 71.1 Scope and applicability.

71.1(1) Scope. The rules in this division apply to court proceedings arising from family law arbitration proceedings taken pursuant to the Iowa Uniform Family Law Arbitration Act in Iowa Code chapter 598A (Act).

71.1(2) Controlling law. If there is a conflict between the court rules in this division and the provisions of chapter 598A, Iowa Code chapter 598A controls.

[Court Order June 30, 2026, effective July 1, 2026]

Rule 71.2 Proceedings in arbitration.

71.2(1) *Filing petition with court.* The court cannot take any action affecting the parties or the arbitration process unless a petition is filed with the court pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 598, 600B, or 600C.

71.2(2) Existing contested case. Parties in a family law court proceeding may opt in to arbitration proceedings under the Act upon filing a notice of arbitration action with the court.

71.2(3) Filing petition post arbitration proceedings. If the parties complete arbitration without having filed a petition, the parties must file a petition and notice of arbitration before the court may enter final judgment on the case.

71.2(4) Required form. Parties must use the Notice of Arbitration Action Under Iowa Code Chapter 598A in Iowa Court rule 71.10—Form 1 of this chapter to opt in to family law arbitration proceedings under the Act.

71.2(5) Suspension of court proceedings. Upon filing of a notice of arbitration action, the court proceedings and established court deadlines will be suspended pending conclusion of the arbitration proceedings or request of a party or parties.

[Court Order June 30, 2026, effective July 1, 2026]

Rule 71.3 Requirements for entry of final order or decree.

71.3(1) *Child custody or visitation matters.* Before the court may enter a final order or decree in an action involving child custody or visitation issues, the parties must demonstrate satisfaction of the requirements of Iowa Code section 598.15.

71.3(2) *Waiting period before decree.* Before the court may enter a final order or decree in any action brought pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 598, 600B, or 600C, the parties must demonstrate satisfaction of the requirements of Iowa Code section 598.19.

[Court Order June 30, 2026, effective July 1, 2026]

Rules 71.4 to 71.9 Reserved.

Rule 71.10 Forms for uniform family law arbitration actions. All parties using the arbitration procedures of the Iowa Uniform Family Law Arbitration Act must use the forms listed in this rule.

Form 1: Notice of Family Law Arbitration Action

**Rule 71.10—Form 1: Notice of Family Law Arbitration Action**

Note: When filing this Notice using the Iowa Judicial Branch Electronic Filing system, select **Family Law Arbitration Filing** in the **Document Category** box and then in the **Document Type** box select **Notice of Arbitration – Family Law**.

In the Iowa District Court for _____ County <i>County where your case is filed</i>	
Upon the Petition of Petitioner <i>Full name: first, middle, last</i> and concerning Respondent <i>Full name: first, middle, last</i>	Case no. _____ Notice of Family Law Arbitration Action Iowa Code chapter 598A

1. The parties entered into an agreement to arbitrate under Iowa Code §598A.5 on:

_____, 20____
Month Day Year

2. The parties have completed arbitration: ☐ Yes ☐ No
Check Yes or No

Oaths and signatures

If a party is represented by an attorney, the attorney must sign the appropriate oath below. If a party is self-represented or does not have an attorney, that party must sign the appropriate oath below.

A. Petitioner's or Petitioner's Attorney's oath and signature

I, _____, have read this Notice of Family Law Arbitration
Print Petitioner's or Attorney's name
 Action and I certify under penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the State of Iowa that the information I have provided in this Notice is complete and accurate.

_____, 20____
Month Day Year Petitioner's or Petitioner's Attorney's signature

Name of law firm, if applicable

Mailing address

City State ZIP code

(_____) _____
Phone number

Email address Additional email address, if applicable

Rule 71.10—Form 1: *Notice of Family Law Arbitration Action*, continued**B. Respondent's or Respondent's Attorney's oath and signature**

I, _____, have read this this Notice of Family Law Arbitration Action
Print Respondent's or Attorney's name
and I certify under penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the State of Iowa that the
information I have provided in this Notice is complete and accurate.

_____, 20_____
Month Day Year Respondent's or Respondent's Attorney's signature

Name of law firm, if applicable

Mailing address

City State ZIP code

(_____)_____
Phone number

Email address Additional email address, if applicable

Clerk to provide copies to Court Administration.