

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
FAMILY COURT  
DOMESTIC RELATIONS BRANCH**

**DEMONTE MCCANE,**

**Plaintiff,**

**v.**

**SCHANIYA D STALLINGS,**

**Defendant,**

**MICHELLE BENNETT,**

**Intervenor.**

**Case No. 2015 DRB 000171  
Judge STEVEN M WELLNER**

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**TEMPORARY CUSTODY ORDER – APRIL 10, 2025**

**ORDER FOR ALTERNATIVE SERVICE**

This custody case concerns the parties and minor child Faith Neveah McCane-Stallings, born January 2, 2015. Plaintiff McCane is the child's biological and legal father. Defendant Stallings is the child's biological and legal mother. Intervenor Bennett is the child's maternal grandmother. Custody is currently governed by the Consent Permanent Custody Order on July 17, 2017, into which it merged the parties' Family Mediation Agreement. The agreement grants Defendant Stallings sole legal custody. It grants Plaintiff McCane, Defendant Stallings, and Intervenor Bennett joint physical custody. The agreement also says the child will primarily reside with Defendant Stallings and Intervenor Bennett, and that Plaintiff McCane will have visitation. Pending before the Court is Defendant Stallings' motion to modify custody, filed March 27, 2025.

The Court held a status hearing in this case on April 9, 2025. Defendant Stallings and Intervenor Bennett represented themselves. Plaintiff McCane did not appear, but he may not have

had notice of the hearing. At the hearing, Defendant Stallings and Intervenor Bennett agreed that the child has been living with Intervenor Bennett since 2015 and that Intervenor Bennett has been the child's primary caretaker since 2017, when Defendant Stallings moved out. Defendant Stallings said she wants the child to live with her to get housing and to be more involved in her life. Both parties said they have not had contact with Plaintiff McCane in years.

Based on the Defendant Stallings's and Intervenor Bennett's testimonies and the record as a whole, the Court modifies the custody arrangement as stated below, to reflect the parties' and the minor child's current situation. This order does not suggest how the Court might ultimately resolve the case. It is intended to provide stability for the child.

Based on the record in the case and considering all the factors set forth in D.C. Code § 16-914, the Court concludes that the temporary custody arrangement below is in the minor children's best interest.

There is also no indication on the docket that Defendant Stallings has served a copy of her motion to modify custody on Plaintiff McCane. Based on her testimony during the hearing, the Court granted Defendant Stallings's oral motion to serve Plaintiff McCane by posting. The Court finds that Defendant meets the requirements for alternative service pursuant to Super. Ct. Dom. Rel. R. 4(c)(4)(A)(ii). Defendant Stallings's application to proceed without prepayment of costs was previously approved; therefore, the Court also finds that Defendant Stallings meets the requirements for service by posting in the clerk's office and on the court's website. *See* Super Ct. Dom. Rel. R. 4(c)(4)(D). As required by the rules, the Clerk of the Court will post the notice below for a period.

Accordingly it is hereby

**ORDERED** that Defendant Stallings and Intervenor Bennett **SHALL HAVE TEMPORARY JOINT LEGAL CUSTODY** of minor child Faith Neveah McCane-Stallings, born January 2, 2015. It is further

**ORDERED** that Defendant Stallings and Intervenor Bennett **SHALL HAVE TEMPORARY JOINT PHYSICAL CUSTODY** of minor child Faith Neveah McCane-Stallings, born January 2, 2015. Defendant Stallings and Intervenor Bennett **SHALL** arrange for visitation between Defendant Stallings and the minor child by mutual agreement. Intervenor Bennett **SHALL MAKE** the minor child available for any agreed-upon visitation with Defendant Stallings. It is further

**ORDERED** that all parties **SHALL APPEAR** for a status hearing on **June 25, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., in Courtroom JM-5 of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia**. Failure to appear at this hearing (or any other scheduled hearing) may result in the Court subjecting the absent party to sanctions, default judgment, or dismissal. It is further

**ORDERED** that the **Clerk of the Family Court of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia SHALL POST** the following Order for a period of twenty-one calendar days:

Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Case No. 2015 DRB 000171

*Demonte McCane, Plaintiff*

v.

*Schaniya D. Stallings, Defendant*

v.

*Michelle Bennett, Intervenor*

On March 27, 2025, Defendant Stallings filed a Motion to Modify Custody of minor child F.N.M-S., born January 2, 2015.

The Court will hold a hearing in this case on **June 25, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., in Courtroom JM-5** of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, located at 500 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001. If Plaintiff McCane does not appear at the hearing or otherwise respond to Defendant Stallings's motion, the Court may grant the requested relief without input from Plaintiff McCane.

So ordered on April 10, 2025.  
Judge Steven M. Wellner

**SO ORDERED.**

**DATED:** April 10, 2025

  
**STEVEN M WELLNER**  
Associate Judge

By U.S. Mail and email:

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*Intervenor*