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IRIS Y. MARTINEZ  
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**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT – DOMESTIC RELATIONS**

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:                     )  
PETER MATT,   )  
    Petitioner,                                     )  
   )  
and   )  
   )  
MEGAN MATT,                                     )  
    Respondent.                                 )

No. 2011 D 230230  
Cal. 11

**PETITION FOR LEAVE TO RELOCATE THE MINOR CHILDREN**

NOW COMES the Petitioner, PETER MATT, individually and by and through his attorneys, KATZ, GOLDSTEIN & WARREN, and pursuant to Section 609.2 of the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act, and as and for his Petition for Leave to Relocate the Minor Children, hereby states as follows:

1. The parties were married on January 24, 2007.
2. As a result of their marriage, two children were born to parties, namely: Angus, born August of 2008, now age 15; and Theodore, born February of 2012, now age 12.
3. On September 27, 2017 a Judgment for Dissolution of Marriage (Judgment), incorporating a Marital Settlement Agreement, was entered in this matter, thereby dissolving the bonds of matrimony between the parties. A copy of the Judgment is attached hereto and incorporated herein *by reference only* as **Exhibit "A."**
4. On September 27, 2017, an Allocation Judgment and Joint Parenting Agreement (JPA) was also entered in this matter allocating parenting time and

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joint decision-making authority amongst the parties. A copy of the JPA is attached hereto and incorporated herein *by reference only* as **Exhibit "B."**

5. Due to MEGAN MATT's behavior and serious endangerment of the minor children, this Court temporarily suspending her parenting time subject to supervised parenting time. **See Exhibit C, Court Order of 9/13/22.**
6. After continued violations of this Court's orders and further inappropriate contact with the children, this Court then ordered MEGAN MATT not to contact either of the children until a Rule 215 examination was completed. **See Exhibit D, Court Order of 10/7/22.**
7. As MEGAN MATT continued to violate this Court orders and further began to abuse PETER MATT and the children as defined by the Domestic Violence Act, this Court entered an emergency order of protection, naming PETER MATT and the children as protected parties on January 6, 2023. **See Exhibit E, Emergency Order of Protection of 1/6/23.**
8. Then, on March 8, 2023, following an evidentiary hearing in which MEGAN MATT was a participant, the Court entered a Plenary Order or Protection. **See Exhibit F, Order of Protection of March 8, 2023.**
9. The Court further entered an Order of Support on May 16, 2023. **See Exhibit G, Uniform Order of Support of May 16, 2023.**
10. MEGAN MATT has not complied with the Order of Support and has not paid child support nor contributed to the children's expenses since at least August 31, 2023.

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11. Presently, PETER MATT has sole allocation of parental responsibilities and exclusive residential possess of the minor children.
12. The parties' oldest child, Angus, has developmental challenges that prevent him from being able to care for himself and require him to attend assistive school and supports.
13. When ruling on a petition to relocate minor children, the Court is to consider the factors enumerated in Section 609.2 of the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act. (750 ILCS 5/609.2).
14. As set forth herein, applying the Section 609.2 factors to the instant case, it is clear that it is in the best interests of the minor child that PETER MATT be granted leave to relocate with the minor children to Germany.
15. Section 609.2 of the IMDMA (750 ILCS 5/609.2), provides in pertinent part as follows:

“(g) The court shall modify the parenting plan or allocation judgment in accordance with the child’s best interests. The court shall consider the following factors:

- (1) the circumstances and reasons for the intended relocation;
- (2) the reasons, if any, why a parent is objecting to the intended relocation;
- (3) the history and quality of each parent’s relationship with the child and specifically whether a parent has substantially failed or refused to exercise the parental responsibilities allocated to him or her under the parenting plan or allocation judgment;
- (4) the educational opportunities for the child at the existing location and at the proposed new location;
- (5) the presence or absence of extended family at the existing location and at the proposed new location;
- (6) the anticipated impact of the relocation on the child;

(7) whether the court will be able to fashion a reasonable allocation of parental responsibilities between all parents if the relocation occurs;

(8) the wishes of the child, taking into account the child's maturity and ability to express reasoned and independent preferences as to relocation;

(9) possible arrangements for the exercise of parental responsibilities appropriate to the parents' resources and circumstances and the developmental level of the child;

(10) minimization of the impairment to a parent-child relationship caused by a parent's relocation; and

(11) any other relevant factors bearing on the child's best interests."

16. The best interests of the children in relocation litigation "cannot be reduced to a simple bright-line test, but rather must be made on a case-by-case basis, depending, to a great extent, upon the circumstances of each case." *In re Marriage of Eckert*, 119 Ill. 2d 316, 326 (1988).

17. PETER MATT intends to relocate to Germany due to the fact that there greater financial, educational, emotional, mental, and physical supports in Germany for PETER MATT and the children than in Wilmette, Illinois.

18. Relocating to Germany would place PETER MATT and the minor children in close proximity to PETER MATT's father and family, providing a much-needed support system for the children, as well as substantial governmental supports for Angus, such as:

a. Inclusion opportunities as Germany's welfare system is very good and will provide guaranteed structured day opportunities in the community throughout his life.

b. Free and good education is readily available and free or low cost leisure activities that include transportation are plentiful.

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- c. Angus would likely go to a development school in the neighborhood until 13th grade.
  - d. Angus would attend school where he would receive 1:1 support through a paraprofessional, if needed. He would also receive various therapies at school that could also get extended to the home setting.
  - e. Germany provides a nationwide independent office (EUTB) that offers free advice to all questions surrounding disabled people with over 500 local offices. It is financed by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. This office is designed to help us to navigate the multiple options for Angus.
  - f. Germany has also a huge network of trade-schools for which he would be eligible and from where he can choose from over 300 different trades that are taught in over hundred plus schools in the metropolitan area. They mostly can be integrated with the therapeutic services Angus would need. It could be part of a customized or supported employment sponsored by the ministry of labor.
19. PETER MATT's primary motives concerning his move to Germany are to improve the quality of life for the parties' minor children and himself.
20. PETER MATT believes that the minor children would enjoy an enhanced quality of life in German which will positively impact their lives both emotionally and physically, and ensure that the minor children are raised in a stable and financially secure household.
21. The minor children's educational and supportive opportunities would be greater in Germany for both of the minor children.

22. PETER MATT's relocation will not impact MEGAN MATT's relationship with the children as the children are presently protected parties under an Order of Protection against MEGAN MATT, and if the order was terminated, MEGAN MATT is not allowed access to the children until a Rule 215 examination and Section 604.10(b) evaluation are completed.
23. PETER MATT is the only caregiver for the minor children, and receives no financial support from MEGAN MATT. In fact, due to the ongoing litigation and failure to pay child support or contribute to expenses, MEGAN MATT has purposefully placed the minor children in economic hardship, a hardship that will be reversed with the relocation to Germany.
24. PETER MATT has already been allocated so decision making over the children.
25. In addition to supports for Angus, the educational, medical, and extra-curricular activities and supports for Theodore are plentiful, including free college that will not require further contribution from MEGAN MATT.
26. The direct benefits to the minor child afforded by the relocation to Germany substantially outweigh any disadvantages that could be argued by MEGAN MATT, particularly since her parenting time would not be impacted.
27. Granting PETER MATT's leave to remove the minor children from Illinois to Germany is in the best interest of the minor children and for all the reasons set forth herein, PETER MATT should be allowed to permanently relocate the minor children to Germany.
28. PETER MATT's Affidavit is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit H**.

WHEREFORE, the Petitioner, PETER MATT, prays unto this Honorable Court to grant the following relief:

A. For the entry of an Order granting PETER MATT leave to relocate the minor children from Chicago, Illinois to Germany.

B. For any such other relief that this Honorable Court deems just and equitable and just under the facts and circumstances presented.

KATZ, GOLDSTEIN & WARREN

By: *Christopher D. Wehrman*  
ATTORNEY FOR PETER MATT

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STATE OF ILLINOIS        )  
                                  )  
COUNTY OF COOK        )        SS

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section 1-109 of the Code of Civil Procedure, I certify that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct except as to matters therein stated to be on information and belief and as to such matters I certify that I verily believe the same to be true.

DATED: 5/3/2024

DocuSigned by:  
*PETER MATT*  
E05CF44DC77544D...  
PETER MATT

Attorney ID: 35921  
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