



★ First, meet with your attorney, and provide all necessary info to create pleadings.

Your attorney will then help you make a divorce complaint and file it.

(Service on Spouse) You have 120 to serve your spouse with divorce papers. Once served, your spouse must answer in 20 days (30 if out-of-state).

Answer Filed

Your spouse may have a counter petition that will be filed and mailed back to you.

Mandatory mediation can take place (unless the director of dispute resolution programs for the courts, the court, or the mediator excuses either party from the requirement to mediate for good cause).

Spouse Filing Divorce: Petitioner
Other spouse: Respondent

Answer

No Answer Filed

Custody and/or parent-time evaluation can be requested during discovery period if matters of child custody and parent-time are disputed.

Sometimes mediation results in a settlement

Default Judgment (Cannot have decree entered in court until 90 days have passed from the filing of the complaint, unless court waives this requirement)

Default

You have an attorney planning meeting

Discovery and Case Management Order

Initial Disclosures

Discovery

Certificate of Readiness for Trial

Pre Trial Conference

Trial

Submission of Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and proposed Decree of Divorce

*Disclosure and Discovery is when both parties learn what the case is about, the facts of the case, and what issues are or are not being disputed.
*Certificate of Readiness for Trial informs the Court that everything to this point has been completed and the case can be sent to trial. A date will be determined from information given to the Court.
*Pre Trial Conferences are for clarification, preparation, facilitation, and consideration among the parties involved.

DIVORCE PROCESS TIMELINE

Issuance of Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Decree of Divorce

Appeal