

DIVORCE INFORMATION FOR PRO SE LITIGANTS

If you intend to represent yourself "Pro Se" (without the assistance of an attorney) you must have knowledge to prepare and file the necessary pleadings and present your cause to the Court.

****Please be advised the District Clerk's office, nor the court staff can provide example forms or legal advice to aid in preparing your divorce. We are not attorneys and are legally prohibited from giving legal advice. If you have legal questions, you should contact an attorney licensed to practice law in the state of Texas to assist you****

BELOW IS A CHECKLIST YOU MUST COMPLETE BEFORE APPEARING IN COURT FOR YOUR DIVORCE

You **MUST** have filed all necessary paperwork with the District Clerk's office **before** your case is set for final hearing.

You must have the following:

1. _____ **PETITION FOR DIVORCE** to file in the District Clerk's office. The District Clerk's office will assign a cause number to your divorce. Please have your cause number available when contacting the District Clerk or Judge's office concerning your case.
2. _____ **WAIVER OF SERVICE** You may have your spouse sign a WAIVER OF SERVICE in front of a notary. This CANNOT be signed and notarized until a day after the divorce petition has been filed.

- OR -

_____ **PROOF OF SERVICE** If your spouse will not sign the Waiver of Service you must have them served with a CITATION.

-OR-

_____ **ANSWER** Your spouse may file an Answer to the Original Petition

3. _____ **FINAL DECREE** The judge will review your decree before a hearing is set. You must complete all applicable blanks or the judge will not review. Make sure it is in your file at least three (3) days before you contact the court coordinator to set your hearing.

If both parties have signed the DECREE OF DIVORCE AND an Affidavit of Prove-Up is filed, you may be able to have your divorce granted by submission after the 60th day without having to appear at a hearing.

SETTING A HEARING

YOUR DIVORCE MUST BE ON FILE SIXTY (60) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF FILING BEFORE THE DIVORCE CAN BE FINALIZED. You will need to contact the Court Coordinator to set your court date. Please note that you will not be able to go before the judge for a final hearing before the 60th day (except in limited situations involving family violence).

When you have all of the items completed, contact the court coordinator to schedule your hearing.

Walker County: Samantha Ehtler sechtler@co.walker.tx.us
Madison and Leon Counties: Casey Robertson crobertson@co.walker.tx.us

You may visit www.texaslawhelp.org for help on filing a Pro Se Divorce.