

CAMP COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK'S INFORMATION FOR FILING YOUR OWN DIVORCE

This document will be given to the Petitioner in every Pro Se divorce case, and signed by Petitioner to acknowledge receipt.

Cause No. DV-_____ Date received: _____

Petitioner's signature: _____

THE DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE DOES NOT SUPPLY FORMS TO FILE FOR DIVORCE. WE ARE NOT ATTORNEYS AND ARE LEGALLY PROHIBITED FROM GIVING ANY LEGAL ADVICE.

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

My suggestions are that you either: (1) use the website www.texaslawhelp.org for free forms and information; or (2) consult an attorney.

PROCEDURES FOR FILING YOUR OWN DIVORCE

1. Bring your completed Original Petition for Divorce and at least two copies of it to the District Clerk's office to be filed. If we have to make copies of anything for you, we must charge you \$1 per page.

A Standing Order Regarding Children, Property and Conduct of the Parties in Family Law Cases must be attached to your Original Petition for Divorce. The Standing Order may be obtained on our website or in my office.

2. Filing fees (and costs for issuance of citation and service, if needed) must be paid at the time of the filing of the case. Filing fees are subject to change, but as of April 12, 2016, they are \$273.00 for a divorce without children under 18, and \$288.00 for a divorce with children under 18. Please contact my office at (903) 856-3221 for current fees.
3. If your spouse signs a Waiver of Service or a Respondent's Original Answer, that document must also be filed with the District Clerk, and is usually required to be filed at least ten (10) days prior to the final hearing.
4. If your spouse will not sign a Waiver of Service or a Respondent's Original Answer, he/she must be served, and you must pay for the issuance of the citation, plus the cost of service. Depending on the law enforcement agency or process server, service will normally cost you

around \$100. If your spouse must be served outside of Camp County, you are responsible for contacting someone to serve your spouse, for getting the citation to whoever will be serving your spouse, and for paying that person his/her service fees.

5. Your Original Petition for Divorce will be filed and assigned a cause number. Please have that cause number available when contacting our office about your case.
6. The Original Petition for Divorce must be on file for at least 60 days before the final hearing may be held.
7. When you have all of your paperwork completed, you must contact our office to request a date for the final hearing. You must make your request in writing: in person, by fax, by email, or by mail. We do not have a district judge in Camp County every day. Please contact my office to find out when a judge will be available.
8. VERY IMPORTANT: Neither the District Judge nor my office staff can assist you in presenting your case or preparing your documents. You must know how to present or prove up your case in court for your final hearing or any other hearings. The website, www.texaslawhelp.org has "sample testimony" which will tell you what you need to say to the judge at your final hearing.
9. When you come to the Courthouse for your final hearing, bring: (1) the original and at least two copies of your completed and signed Final Decree of Divorce; (2) the original and at least two copies of the completed Withholding Order if you have children under 18; (3) the completed vital statistics form VS-165, which may be picked up in my office if you do not have one; and (4) your Sample Testimony.
10. Sit in the District Courtroom (across the hall from the District Clerk's office) and wait for the judge to call your case.
11. After the final hearing, you may obtain file-stamped copies or certified copies of your Decree in the District Clerk's office. One free certified copy of the Decree will be provided, per case, at the time your Decree is filed (no exceptions).
12. If you or your spouse will be receiving child support, you must provide information to my office to set up a child support account that will be collected and disbursed through the Texas Child Support Disbursement Unit in San Antonio.

You must also make a request to my office for the Withholding Order to be issued to the employer of the person who is ordered to pay child support.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS DOCUMENT, PLEASE CONTACT THE DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE.

IF YOU NEED LEGAL ADVICE, YOU MUST CONTACT AN ATTORNEY.

Thank you,

Teresa Bockmon
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Pittsburg, TX 75686
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