

**CHECKLIST FOR PACKET 4
DEFENDANT DIVORCE (NO MINOR CHILDREN)**

This form is required in all divorce cases where you and the plaintiff agree on all of the issues:

- *Answer*

You will also need to work with the plaintiff to complete the *Decree of Divorce* and sign it in front of a notary public.

STEP 1. If you were served with a copy of the *Summons and Complaint for Divorce* or if you signed an *Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Service*, file one of the following:

- Answer; OR*
- Answer and Counterclaim*
- Take an original and 2 copies of the *Answer* or *Answer and Counterclaim* to the Clerk for filing
- Mail a copy to the plaintiff and keep a copy for your records.

STEP 2. Complete the *Initial Disclosures*

- Send the *Initial Disclosures* to the plaintiff within **30 days** after you were personally served by the Sheriff or signed the *Acknowledgment and Acceptance of Service* form. **DO NOT FILE** the *Initial Disclosures* with the Court.
- Exception:** If you and the plaintiff agree on all issues in your divorce and you both are signing the *Decree of Divorce*, then you do NOT need to complete the *Initial Disclosures* and you can move on to **Step 4**.

STEP 3. If you and the plaintiff agree on all of the terms in the *Decree of Divorce*, sign it in front of a notary public.

- Sign the *Decree of Divorce*
- A copy will be mailed to you if the Judge signs the *Decree of Divorce*.

Your divorce will be complete when the Judge signs the *Decree of Divorce* and it is filed with the Clerk.

STEP 4. If you and the plaintiff do NOT agree on all of the issues of your divorce, fill out and file the following forms and attend the trial to finish your Divorce:

***Caution: It is strongly recommended that you hire or find an attorney to represent you at trial, even though you may represent yourself. You proceed at your own risk and will be expected to know the rules and laws.**

- If the plaintiff has **NOT** requested, a trial date, you must request one.
 - Request for Setting*
 - Order Setting Divorce Trial and Requesting Pretrial Statements*
(Judge will fill out date and time)

- Take original and two copies to the Clerk for filing.
- Take an envelope addressed to you with postage for the Clerk to mail a copy of the *Order Setting Divorce Trial and Requesting Pretrial Statements* to you.
- Take an envelope addressed to the defendant with postage for the Clerk to mail a copy of the *Order Setting Divorce Trial and Requesting Pretrial Statements* to the defendant.
- Mail a copy of the *Request for Setting* to the plaintiff and keep a copy for your records.

Once a trial date has been set, do the following:

- Pretrial Disclosures and Pretrial Memorandum*
 - File at least **30 days** before the trial date
 - Take original and two copies to the Clerk for filing
 - Mail copy to the plaintiff and keep a copy for your records
- At least 3 working days before the trial, request a court reporter, if desired (and if the plaintiff has not done so).
- Attend the Trial: Present your evidence and witnesses.
- Additional Forms: The Court may also require additional forms depending on the county where your case is filed. Ask the Clerk if any additional forms are required.
 - Copies and Envelopes for each additional form:
 - Take an original and 2 copies of each additional form to the Clerk for filing.
 - Mail a copy of any additional form filed with the Clerk to the plaintiff and keep a copy for your records.

Your divorce will be complete when the Judge signs the *Decree of Divorce* and it is filed with the Clerk.