

ABSOLUTE DIVORCE PACKET

IMPORTANT NOTE: PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND FORMS COMPLETELY AND CAREFULLY BEFORE PROCEEDING. YOUR CASE MAY INVOLVE COMPLICATED LEGAL ISSUES, WHICH MAY NOT BE COVERED IN THIS PACKET. BE AWARE THAT OBTAINING AN ABSOLUTE DIVORCE MAY LIMIT YOUR RIGHTS TO OTHER LEGAL REMEDIES INCLUDING ALIMONY AND DIVISION OF MARITAL PROPERTY SUCH AS MILITARY PENSIONS. IF AT ANY TIME YOU ARE CONFUSED OR UNSURE OF ANY LEGAL ISSUE THAT MAY AFFECT YOU, STOP AND SEEK THE ADVICE OF AN ATTORNEY.

This packet has been provided for individuals who wish to pursue an ABSOLUTE DIVORCE case without the assistance of an attorney. This is called a **Pro Se** or self represented case. You have decided to represent yourself; therefore, it is YOUR responsibility to make sure that you review and research applicable law and Rules of Civil Procedure that may apply to your particular case. This packet is designed to be a guide to start the process for you and provide certain forms you will need. This packet provides a Legal Glossary defining some commonly used legal terms with which you may not be familiar. The Court Service Directory also included in this packet provides a list of agencies that may be able to answer general procedural questions or direct you to legal representation.

Please fill out all forms completely and as accurately as possible. Forms must be typed or neatly printed in ink. Some forms may require you to sign in the presence of a Notary Public.

A Judge cannot speak to you about your case, hear evidence, or answer questions regarding your case except when the case is being heard in court and the other party has been properly notified of the complaint or motion and hearing date. The Family Court staff will assist you as much as possible with questions about scheduling and/or the status of your case. They may also provide you with information on court services that may be available to you.

THE FAMILY COURT STAFF CANNOT GIVE LEGAL ADVICE, REVIEW DOCUMENTS, OR RECOMMEND HOW TO PRESENT YOUR SIDE OF A CASE IN COURT.

After all your paper work is completed and filed you must be prepared to represent yourself in court.

1. **BE ON TIME!** If you are late or not present in court at the time the judge calls your case, IT MAY BE DISMISSED!
2. **BE PREPARED!** Have all your paperwork with you and in order ready to present to the Judge.
3. **BE RESPECTFUL!** Your behavior in court is very important. You must be polite, courteous, and respectful of everyone in court. This includes the Judge, the courtroom staff, the other party and any witnesses. Always stand when addressing the judge and remain seated when questioning witnesses.
4. **DRESS APPROPRIATELY!** Dress professionally. Do not wear shorts, tank tops, sweat pants, or tee shirts with suggestive or obscene language. Avoid wearing tight or revealing clothing.