

INFORMATION FOR FILING A DIVORCE "PRO SE" IN THE DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE OF BLANCO COUNTY

THE DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE DOES NOT SUPPLY FORMS NECESSARY 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 knowledge to prepare and file the necessary pleadings and present/prove up your cause to the Court.

The only suggestion or advise that we can offer is that you purchase a book on "How to do your Divorce in Texas" or go to a Law Library to research the necessary information or see an attorney or check the following websites: www.tyla.org/family_law.html or www.texaslawhelp.org/TX/index.cfm .

PROCEDURES FOR FILING PRO SE DIVORCE

1. Bring your original petition and 2 copies to the District Clerk's office to be filed. The Standing Order Regarding Property and Conduct of Parties in Divorce and Suits Affecting the Parent-child Relationship (See Attachment A) MUST be attached to your original petition for divorce before it can be filed with the Clerk. You will also be required to complete the vital statistics VS-165 form (See Attachment B) & the Notice of Pro Se form (See Attachment C) at the time you file your original petition.
2. The filing fees are: Divorce where spouse signs a waiver\$ 278.00 or
 Divorce with a citation & service in Blanco County\$ 346.00 - Due at the time of filing.
3. Your petition will be filed and assigned a cause number and court. Please have this information available when contacting our office concerning your case. The District Clerk's Office phone number is 830-868-0973. Our hours are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.
4. Pursuant to the standing order amended on January 10, 2007 (See Attachment D & D-1),
 - In ALL suits affecting parent-child relationship filed on or after July 1, 1998, in Blanco County, Texas, involving children under the age of 18, all parties shall successfully complete a seminar that addresses the issues confronting children that are the subject of divorce, custody and child support litigation. Each party is responsible for payment of the appropriate fee.
 - The seminar shall be attended within 30 days of service of the original petition upon the original respondent.
 - A party's failure to attend the seminar pursuant to this rule will result in contempt, sanctions, postponement of the final hearing and entry of a final decree.
 - For good cause shown the judge may waive the attendance requirement in individual cases.
 - Information on this required seminar is available in the District Clerk's Office or the website www.kidsfirsttexas.com (Attachment D-1)
5. The petition must be on file for at least 60 days BEFORE the final hearing can be held.
6. AFTER the 60 days have expired and you have completed steps 1 through 4, you may contact Shelia Stewart, the 33rd /424th District Court Administrator at 512-756-5436 or 33424districtcourt@dcourttx.org, to set a date to appear before the court to have your Decree of Divorce entered into record and finalized. This is normally referred to as your final hearing.
7. When you come to the courthouse for your final hearing bring you Original Decree of Divorce and 2 copies. Certified Copies of the final Decree of Divorce are available after your decree has been entered into the record. The cost for a certified copy is \$1 per page.
8. Report to the Blanco County District Courtroom at 101 E. Cypress Street, Johnson City, Texas 78636 and wait for the Court to call your case. The Judge cannot assist you with your divorce. You must know how to present/prove up your case before the court.
9. If you or your spouse will be receiving child support, you must return to the District Clerk's Office immediately after your final hearing and give the required information (See Attachment E) to set up a child support account that will be used to collect and disburse child support payments through the State Disbursement Unit in San Antonio.

WE ARE SORRY THAT WE CANNOT LEGALLY HELP YOU WITH ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, BUT PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE AT 830-868-0973 FOR INFORMATION/QUESTIONS REGARDING THESE INSTRUCTIONS.

THANK YOU,

DEBBY ELSBURY, DISTRICT CLERK
BLANCO, COUNTY, TEXAS

10/03/2017