

PRO SE ANSWER PACKET WITHOUT CHILDREN

COSTS:

PACKET\$10.00..... DUE WHEN PACKET IS RECEIVED

The following site offers free printable and fillable pdf. forms:

<http://www.courtswv.gov/lower-courts/divorce-forms/index-divorce-forms.html>

FILING FEE..... NONE

A CONVENIENCE FEE IS APPLIED IF PAYING BY CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD.

- The respondent will have 20 days from the date of service to file their answer; a copy is sent by the respondent to the petitioner and the original is delivered to circuit clerk for filing. Upon receipt of this answer either party may contact Family Court to schedule a hearing date. It is that party's responsibility to provide a copy of the Notice of Hearing to the other party as well as the Circuit Clerk for the court file.
- If you plan to hire an attorney these forms may not be necessary. To apply for Legal Aid services you may call 1-866-255-4370. **The Circuit Clerk's office staff is, by law, not permitted to assist you with legal questions.**

•

FAMILY COURT:

304-647-7406

106 S. COURT STREET

LEWISBURG, WV 24901

CIRCUIT CLERK:

304-772-3017

PO BOX 350

UNION, WV 24983

PLEASE COME BEFORE 3:00 PM TO FILE.

WEST VIRGINIA RESPONDENT'S DIVORCE ANSWER PACKET INSTRUCTIONS

* IMPORTANT INFORMATION *

YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE BETTER PROTECTED WITH THE HELP OF AN ATTORNEY.

You can obtain a divorce without the assistance of an attorney, but if minor children will be involved in your divorce, if you and your spouse own a home or business, or if you or your spouse have a pension or retirement plan, your custody, property, and support rights may be better protected with the help of an attorney.

The staffs of the Circuit Clerk's Office and the Family Court are prohibited by law from providing legal advice.

TIME DEADLINES

In a divorce case, the parties must meet certain deadlines, such as filing papers and documents by a specific date. The failure to meet deadlines can result in the Court imposing penalties. If the other party meets the deadline and you do not meet the deadline, the Court can accept the information that was filed by the other party. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH DEADLINES CAN HURT YOUR CASE!** These Instructions contain information on deadlines. Read the instructions carefully, and pay attention to the deadlines.

As the Respondent, the **FIRST DEADLINE** you must meet is the deadline for filing your Answer. You have **20 DAYS** from the date you were served with the Petition for Divorce to serve your answer on the Petitioner; or **30 DAYS** if you were served by publication.

If you require any special arrangements to fully participate in court proceedings, for example, a language interpreter, hearing or visual aids, or accommodations for physical access, please notify the Circuit Clerk's Office by checking the appropriate box on the Respondent's Civil Case Information Statement.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DIVORCE ANSWER PACKET

The Divorce Answer Packet contains forms and instructions you will need to answer a Divorce Petition, and represent yourself in your divorce case, without an attorney. Your spouse, who filed the divorce, is the Petitioner. You are the Respondent. The meanings of these terms and others are explained in the "Definitions of Legal Terms" at the end of these instructions. You should take a few minutes to read these definitions before you continue with these instructions.

The first part of your Answer Packet contains the instructions you are now reading. The forms follow the instructions. Please read these instructions carefully, and please write clearly when you fill in the forms. The forms are very important to your case. If required forms are not properly completed, and filed on time, your case may be harmed, or delayed. You will file all of your forms and all other required documents in the Circuit Clerk's Office. Unless otherwise

indicated, for every form and document you file, you will need an original that will be filed with the Circuit Clerk, a copy that you will serve on the opposing party, and a copy for yourself. If the BCSE is a party, you will need a copy that will be served on that agency.

The forms in this packet require you to provide your name, address, and telephone number. **If you believe your safety, liberty, or health, or the safety, liberty, or health of your children would be put at risk by the disclosure of this information, you must check the box in the Important Notice section of the Respondent's Civil Case Information Statement AND you must file an affidavit to have the information withheld from all persons except court employees who require the information to carry out their duties.** The affidavit you need to file is the Affidavit To Withhold Identifying Information. This affidavit is not included in the Answer Packet. If you need this affidavit, you can obtain one at the Circuit Clerk's Office. You can file this affidavit in the Circuit Clerk's Office at any time, or you can ask the Court to enter an order allowing you to withhold the information. If your identifying information is withheld, the Petitioner's court papers will be served through the Circuit Clerk or Family Court, and not directly on you.

TO BEGIN, study the following list of forms included in your packet. The list contains the names of the forms, and important information about the forms and how they will be used in your case. The forms on the list are divided into three groups: Forms Required in All Divorces; Forms Required in Divorces Involving Minor Children; Other Forms You May Need. **Read the list of forms carefully to determine the forms you need to complete.**

FORMS REQUIRED IN: ALL DIVORCES.

1. ANSWER TO DIVORCE PETITION:

The Answer To Divorce Petition is the Respondent's reply to the Petitioner's Divorce Petition. In the Answer, the Respondent replies to the Petitioner's allegations of the reasons the divorce should be granted, (the grounds), and to the Petitioner's requests on matters such as spousal support, allocation of custodial responsibility for the children, child support, and the division of property.

2. RESPONDENT'S CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT - DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES:

This form gives the Court important information about the case and the parties. When you file your Answer in the Circuit Clerk's Office, you also must file three copies of a completed Respondent's Civil Case Information Statement.

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

You and the Petitioner will use this form to list income, assets, and liabilities. Each of you will complete one of these forms. In cases involving minor children and/or spousal support, each of you must file the additional information discussed in Step 1. **You must file your completed Financial Statement with your Answer.** Any additional information required to supplement your financial disclosure, or any updates or changes to your financial statement, must be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office as required by the scheduling order of the court. **If you do not have a scheduling order, then the additional information must be filed no later than 5 days before the first hearing in your case. If one party files the financial information on time, and the other party does not, the Court can proceed with the financial information missing, can refuse to grant requested relief to the party who didn't file the information, and can base a decision solely on the information that was filed on time.**

**FORMS REQUIRED IN: DIVORCES INVOLVING MINOR CHILDREN
OR SPOUSAL SUPPORT.**

**1. APPLICATION FOR CHILD SUPPORT AND INCOME WITHHOLDING
SERVICES FROM THE BUREAU FOR CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT:**

If minor children are involved in the divorce, or spousal support is being requested by either party, you must complete this form, and file it in the Circuit Clerk's Office when you file your Answer. The Petitioner will have completed this form, and filed it in the Circuit Clerk's Office with the Petition For Divorce.

2. PROPOSED PARENTING PLAN:

If minor children are involved in the divorce, you and the Petitioner must attempt to agree on a Joint Proposed Parenting Plan, unless your or your children's safety and well-being would be put at risk. A Joint Proposed Parenting Plan tells the Court in detail how the parents think the responsibilities for raising the children should be shared after the divorce. If you and the Petitioner cannot agree on a Joint Parenting Plan, each of you must file Individual Proposed Parenting Plans. **In either event, Joint or Individual Plans should be filed prior to the first hearing/conference in the case. If one party files an Individual Plan on time, and the other party does not, the Court can rely solely on the plan that was filed on time.** The Parenting Plan Instructions accompanying the Parenting Plan forms explain Parenting Plans in detail.

3. PARENT EDUCATION NOTICE:

The notice explains that each parent must pay a \$25 Parent Education Fee, unless fees have been waived, and must complete a Parent Education Class conducted by specially trained persons approved by the Courts.

OTHER FORMS YOU MAY NEED.

1. SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT WAIVER:

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act permits persons serving in the armed forces to delay court cases. A party serving in the armed forces who signs this form agrees to allow the divorce to proceed despite the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

Now that you've reviewed the list of forms, you next need to determine the correct forms for your case, and learn the deadlines for serving and filing those forms. These things are explained in Step 1.

**STEP 1. WHAT ARE THE CORRECT FORMS FOR YOUR CASE?
WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES FOR FILING THE FORMS?**

A. EVERYONE who files an Answer MUST complete the following forms:

Answer To Divorce Petition - Deadline: Must be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office and served on the Petitioner within 20 days of the date the Answer was served, or within 30 days if service was by publication.

Respondent's Civil Case Information Statement - Deadline: Must be filed with the Answer.

Financial Statement - Deadline: Must be filed with the Answer and served on the other party, or parties, and filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office. AND, in cases involving minor children, and/or spousal support, the Financial Statement must be accompanied by the additional information explained in items B and C on the next page.

B. If MINOR CHILDREN are involved in the divorce, IN ADDITION to the forms in Group 1, you MUST also complete and file the following forms:

Application for Child Support Enforcement and Income Withholding Services -

Deadline: Must be filed with the Answer.

Proposed Parenting Plan - Deadline: Before the first hearing.

AND

You MUST also file the following information with your Financial Statement:

1. A copy of your 3 most recent wage or salary stubs showing gross pay, deductions for taxes and other items, and net pay for a normal pay period, and for the year-to-date;
2. Copies of your and your spouse's complete income tax returns for the two years immediately preceding the date the petition was filed, together with copies of the federal Form W-2 for those years; and a copy of the Form W-2 for the most recent year for which that form is available, even if a tax return has not yet been filed for that year;
3. For self-employed persons and business owners, a copy of a current financial statement showing gross income, expenses, and net income;
4. Copies of any invoices or receipts showing the cost of any extraordinary medical expenses for the party or the children, any child care expenses, and any expenses necessitated by the special needs of the children.

AND

You MUST also complete a Parent Education Class. **Deadlines:** You must pay a Parent Education Fee when you file your Answer, unless your fees have been waived. You should attempt to complete a Parent Education Class before your first hearing. If you do not, your case may be delayed.

C. If you are requesting SPOUSAL SUPPORT; IN ADDITION to the Group 1 forms, you MUST also complete and file:

Application for Child Support Enforcement and Income Withholding Services -

Deadline: Must be filed with the Answer.

AND

You MUST file WITH your Financial Statement the additional information listed in items B. 1 - 4 immediately above.

Now that you've determined the forms required for your divorce, go to Step 2 to learn about how to fill out the Answer form, and other required forms.

STEP 2. HOW TO FILL OUT THE ANSWER AND OTHER FORMS.

First, an Important Reminder: You have 20 DAYS from the date you were served with the Petition For Divorce to serve the Petitioner with your Answer; or 30 DAYS if you were served by publication!

Before you begin, you may want to make several copies of each blank form. You can use the copies to practice on, and you'll have extra blank forms if you make an error completing a form.

Filling out the Answer form is a matter of checking the right boxes, and filling in blanks. How you complete your Answer depends on the particularities of your case, such as the grounds for divorce claimed in the Divorce Petition. Read the last section in this step for information about the grounds for divorce. The form is self-explanatory, but make certain you read everything carefully, and fully understand what you're doing when you check a box or fill in a blank. Complete the Answer form down to the Verification. Don't complete and sign the Verification until you are before a Notary Public. Deputy Circuit Clerks can also notarize your Verification. Don't fill in the Certificate of Service until you are ready to mail the Answer to your spouse.

Next, take a look at the other forms you must fill out: If necessary, return to Step 1 and review the list of forms to make certain you fill out all of the required forms. Some forms have a set of instructions accompanying them; the Parenting Plan, for example. Other forms have instructions built into the form. Read the instructions and forms carefully, and make certain you understand what you're doing when you check a box or fill in a blank.

GROUND FOR DIVORCE

The Divorce Petition form included in the Petitioner's Divorce Packet lists three common grounds for divorce. The most common ground is Irreconcilable Differences. This ground is Item 20 in the Divorce Petition. Item 20 does not require a check mark. In other words, when a person files the form, Petition for Divorce, Irreconcilable Differences is automatically claimed as a ground, unless the person filing the Petition crosses it out. The other three grounds listed in the form Petition, Items 21, 22, and 23 must be checked to be claimed as grounds. The grounds of Irreconcilable Differences and One Year Separation are briefly explained in the next two paragraphs.

Irreconcilable Differences

To obtain a divorce on the ground of Irreconcilable Differences:

1. The Divorce Petition must claim Irreconcilable Differences as a ground. Irreconcilable Differences is automatically claimed by filing the form, Petition for Divorce, included with the Petitioner's Divorce Packet.
2. The Respondent must file an Answer, and the Answer must admit Irreconcilable Differences.
3. At least one of the parties to the divorce, you or the Petitioner, must attend the final hearing.

One Year Separation

To obtain a divorce on the ground of One Year Separation:

1. The Petitioner must check Item 21 on the Divorce Petition.
2. At least one witness must testify to the 1 year separation. (Neither you, nor the Petitioner, count as this one witness.)
3. At least one of the parties to the divorce, you or the Petitioner, must attend the final hearing.

Now that you've gotten underway by completing your Answer and other required forms, go to Steps 3 to learn about how to serve your Answer on the Petitioner.

STEP 3. SERVING YOUR ANSWER AND OTHER PAPERS ON THE PETITIONER.

You have 20 DAYS from the date you were served with the Petition for Divorce to serve the Petitioner with your Answer; or 30 DAYS if you were served by publication! It is your responsibility to serve your Answer on the Petitioner unless you are directed otherwise by the Circuit Clerk.

During the course of the case, depending on the nature of your case, you will be required to serve other papers on the Petitioner, and on the BCSE, if that agency is a party; for example, Financial Statement and accompanying records, Proposed Parenting Plan, and various motions. The most convenient and inexpensive way to serve these papers is by First Class United States Mail. When you serve these papers by first class mail, you will complete a Certificate of Service form to verify you served the papers on the date indicated. Some forms, such as motion forms, have a Certificate of Service built into the form, and your packet also contains a separate, generic Certificate of Service form. You should make several copies of this blank form.

Your Answer, and every other paper you are required to serve, must be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office. You are required to file these documents in the Clerk's Office within a reasonable time after you have served them. It's best to file them quickly so your court file is always up to date and contains timely documentation that you have served the papers required. Step 4 discusses filing papers in the Circuit Clerk's Office, and fees and court costs.

STEP 4. FILING PAPERS IN THE CIRCUIT CLERK'S OFFICE. FEES AND COURT COSTS.

You will file your Answer and all other papers you serve in the Circuit Clerk's Office in the county in which the divorce was filed.

When you file your Answer to Divorce Petition, you are also required to file three copies of a completed Respondent's Civil Case Information Statement, a completed Application and Income Withholding Form from the West Virginia Bureau for Child Support Enforcement, and a completed Financial Statement Form. **Everyone who files an Answer MUST file these forms.**

Important Note. - The law prohibits the Circuit Clerk and Deputy Clerks from providing legal advice. This means they cannot assist you in completing your forms, or "check" your forms to see if you've completed them correctly.

Fees and Court Costs.

You are not required to pay a fee to file an Answer. The Petitioner paid a \$135 filing fee when the Divorce Petition was filed, and paid a \$25 fee if the Petition was served on you by the Sheriff's Department. After examining the financial circumstances of you and the Petitioner, the Court may require the two of you to share these fees, and other costs, or may require one of you to pay the entire amount. Fees and costs are not refundable if you and the Petitioner change your minds about your divorce.

If you cannot afford to pay these fees and court costs, you should ask a Deputy Circuit Clerk for an affidavit to waive fees and court costs. You can fill out the affidavit in the Clerk's office. The affidavit requires you to list some basic information about your financial situation with supporting documentation. A Deputy Clerk will review your completed affidavit, and tell you if you meet the legal requirements to have your fees and costs waived. If you meet these requirements, you will not have to pay fees and costs. If you don't meet these requirements, you

must pay fees and costs, but you can ask the Court to review your affidavit later. The Court will review your request for waiver of fees at a later hearing and will determine your eligibility even if the clerk has approved your waiver. Criminal charges can be filed against you if you provide false information on this affidavit.

After you have served the Petitioner with your Answer, and filed the Answer and the required forms in the Circuit Clerk's Office, the Court will schedule a hearing or conference in your case. Step 5 explains how the hearings and conferences in your case will be conducted.

STEP 5. CONFERENCES & HEARINGS: WHAT TO EXPECT.

In Step 5, we'll discuss how the conferences and hearings in your case will be conducted. In Step 6, you'll learn what you need to do to prepare for your first conference or hearing. Conferences are conducted by the Family Court's Case Coordinator or the Family Court Judge. Hearings are conducted by the Family Court Judge. Conferences and hearings are set by the Family Court office.

In Family Court, all hearings and conferences are set by Scheduling Orders. **It is very important that you attend all hearings, show up on time, and come prepared.** You risk hurting your case if you fail to attend hearings, show up late, or come unprepared. Find out where the hearings will be held and allow plenty of time to get there on time.

If you receive a Scheduling Order notifying you of a hearing or conference, and you will not be able to attend, you **must** send the Family Court a written request to reschedule. This is called a Motion for Continuance. You **must** state the reason you cannot attend the originally scheduled hearing. The Family Court must receive your motion to continue **not less than 7 business days** before the date of the hearing you want rescheduled, and you must serve this motion on the Petitioner.

Family Court hearings are not open to the public. Only the parties, attorneys for parties, and witnesses are allowed to attend hearings. All hearings are recorded with video and audio equipment. Everyone who testifies must swear or affirm to tell the truth. **Everyone** is expected to behave in a courteous and dignified manner. Courts will not tolerate improper conduct. The Rules of Court prohibit photographs, videotaping, and sound recording in the courtroom, and in all public areas associated with the courtroom.

Some Family Court Judges question the parties and their witnesses. Others want the attorneys **and** self-represented parties to present evidence and question witnesses. If you are representing yourself, **you will be expected to present your evidence and question witnesses.** Ask a member of the Family Court staff how the judge will conduct your hearing.

Not all hearings produce an immediate decision. Sometimes, the issues in dispute just aren't ready for a decision. For instance, the judge may decide more evidence is needed on an issue. Sometimes, the judge will want to think things over before making a decision. Sometimes, the judge will announce a decision at the conclusion of a hearing. Whatever the circumstances, once made, all decisions are written down in the form of Orders, and filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office. If there's an attorney in the case, the Family Court Judge may ask the attorney to draft an Order which will be sent to the judge and the other party for review. If neither party has an attorney, the judge will prepare the Orders.

Now that you've learned some things about the way hearings are conducted, move to Step 6, and learn what you need to do to prepare for the first hearing or conference in your case.

STEP 6. PREPARING FOR THE FIRST HEARING OR CONFERENCE.

In Step 6, we'll discuss what will happen at the first hearing or conference in your case, and what you need to do to prepare. To begin, review the following list of important reminders of things that must be done before the first hearing or conference.

THINGS YOU NEED TO DO BEFORE THE FIRST HEARING OR CONFERENCE.

Parent Education: If minor children are involved in the divorce, both parents must complete an approved Parent Education Class, and file a Class Completion Certificate in the Circuit Clerk's Office. You need to schedule and attempt to complete a Parent Education Class before the first conference/hearing. If you do not, your case may be delayed.

Proposed Parenting Plan: If minor children are involved in the divorce, before the first hearing/conference, you and the other parent need to file a Joint Proposed Parenting Plan together, or each of you need to file Individual Proposed Parenting Plans.

Witness Subpoenas: If you think you will need witnesses to testify at a hearing, you need to make certain those witnesses will attend. If you are not certain a witness will show up, you need to obtain a subpoena. To arrange for a subpoena, go to the Circuit Clerk's Office. You should do this at least 10 days before the hearing. To obtain witness subpoenas, you need to provide the Deputy Clerk with the names and addresses of the witnesses, and pay a Clerk's Fee of .50 cents per subpoena, and a service fee of \$25 per subpoena, unless your fees have been waived.

THE FIRST CONFERENCE OR HEARING: WHAT TO EXPECT.

If a party makes a written motion for temporary relief, the first hearing may be a hearing on temporary relief. Temporary relief hearings deal with matters such as allocation of custodial responsibility, allocation of time spent with the children, child support, medical support, spousal support, and possession of the marital residence.

This first hearing is called a case management conference/hearing. You will receive a Scheduling Order telling you the date, time, and place, and whether the proceeding will be a conference conducted by the Case Coordinator, or a hearing conducted by the Family Court Judge. The Scheduling Order will tell you if you need to complete and file any additional forms, file any additional information, or take care of any other matters before you come to the hearing.

One of the purposes of the case management conference/hearing is to determine what issues are disputed in your case, and how many hearings and how much time your case will require. If your case has no disputed issues, the first hearing may be the only hearing necessary, and the Court may suggest making the first hearing the final hearing. This can only be done if there is a good reason to do it, all necessary papers have been filed, and you and the Petitioner agree to it.

In cases involving minor children, the most important subject discussed at the first conference/hearing will be the development of a Parenting Plan. Read the Parenting Plan Instructions to learn the things you need to know about Parenting Plans.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR HEARINGS.

The issues that will be the subject of hearings in your case depend on the nature of your case and the particular issues in dispute between you and the Petitioner. Issues frequently in dispute in divorce cases include, but are not limited to, allocation of custodial responsibility, child support, division and possession of marital property, spousal support, and the division of marital assets and debts. To prepare for a hearing, the first thing you need to do is make sure you understand what issues will be addressed at that hearing. The second thing you need to do is decide how you can prove your case on these issues. You can prove your case by your testimony, by documents, or by the testimony of witnesses. The Petitioner will be given the same opportunities to testify and present evidence. Make a plan for how you will present your case. It's best to write things down. List the things you want to prove, and for each thing you want to prove, list how you will prove it; by witness testimony, or a document, for example.

As you have learned, in some cases the first hearing may be the only hearing necessary. In other cases, a number of hearings may be required before the case reaches a final hearing. What happens after the final hearing is discussed in Step 7.

STEP 7. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE FINAL HEARING?

The final hearing will result in a Final Order concluding the case and settling all issues in dispute. Both parties will receive copies of the Final Order. **You are NOT legally divorced until a Final Order has been signed by the Family Court Judge!**

Any party may file a Motion for Reconsideration of a Final Order for one of the five types of reasons specified in Chapter 51, Article 2A, Section 10 of the West Virginia Code. A Motion for Reconsideration can be filed only for one of these reasons. A Motion for Reconsideration is made to the Family Court, and must be filed with the Circuit Clerk within a reasonable time after the Final Order was entered, or within one year, depending on the reason for which the motion is filed.

Any party may appeal a Final Order of Family Court to the Circuit Court. An appeal to the Circuit Court is made by filing a Petition for Appeal from Family Court Final Order with the Circuit Clerk. A Petition for Appeal must be filed within 30 days after the date the Final Order was entered. The Circuit Court may refuse to consider a Petition for Appeal. The other parties have a right to file a Reply to a Petition for Appeal, and file a Cross Petition; and the party filing the Petition for Appeal has a right to file a Reply to a Cross Petition. If the Circuit Court does not rule on the petition within the time required, all parties will receive a notice the appeal will be automatically transferred to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals unless all parties file written objections to the transfer. If an appeal is transferred to the Supreme Court, the parties are not required to file any additional papers.

If the Circuit Court refuses to consider a Petition for Appeal, or if a party disagrees with the Circuit Court's ruling on a Petition for Appeal, an appeal may be made to the Supreme Court of Appeals.

Under some circumstances, a Final Order of Family Court may be appealed directly to the Supreme Court of Appeals. This may be done if all parties, together or separately, file a Notice of Intent to Appeal Family Court Final Order and Waiver of Right to Appeal to Circuit Court. Filing this Notice requires a waiver of the right to file a Petition for Appeal to the Circuit Court. The Notice must be filed within 14 days after the date the Final Order was entered.

A party filing an appeal to the Circuit Court or Supreme Court may make a Motion for a Stay. A Motion for a Stay asks that the terms of a Final Order not be carried out until the appeal has been resolved. A Motion for a Stay is made in the Family Court. If the Family Court denies the motion, the motion may be made in the Circuit Court. The payment of spousal support and child support cannot be stayed. The payment of past due child support may be stayed.

Forms and instructions for appeals to the Circuit Court and Supreme Court are available in Family Court and Circuit Clerk offices. These forms are also available online at www.courtswv.gov.

DEFINITIONS OF LEGAL TERMS

Affidavit

A written statement of facts sworn to before a Notary Public.

Alimony

Money paid by a divorced person for the support of the ex-spouse. Alimony is now called "spousal support." Alimony is not the same as child support.

Allocation of Custodial Responsibility

The allocation of custodial responsibility determines how the parents will share custody of the children after the divorce. Formerly referred to as "child custody."

Answer

The Respondent's written response to the Petition for Divorce.

Application For Child Support Enforcement And Income Withholding Services

In cases involving minor children, both parents must fill out this form to request or decline child support enforcement and income withholding services from the Bureau For Child Support Enforcement.

Bureau For Child Support Enforcement (BCSE)

The state agency that enforces parents' child support obligations and helps collect child support payments.

Case Coordinator

The Family Court staff person who keeps track of cases, and holds conferences with the parties.

Child Support

The money paid by a divorced parent to help pay the expenses of raising the children. The Family Court Judge sets the amount of support by using West Virginia's child support formula.

Circuit Clerk

The court official who keeps all court files and documents. All papers filed in a court case are filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office. Most service of process is arranged through the Circuit Clerk's Office.

Circuit Court

The court of general jurisdiction for a county, or for several counties grouped together as a circuit.

Divorce

The termination of a marriage by a Court based on proof provided by the parties.

Family Court

The Court that handles divorces, paternity cases, and other types of family cases.

Financial Statements

Forms that provide the Court with financial information about the income, assets, and liabilities of the parties.

Grounds

The reasons for a divorce. Two common grounds for divorce in West Virginia are irreconcilable differences and one year separation.

Irreconcilable differences

One of the grounds for a divorce. Irreconcilable differences means the parties cannot get along with each other, and don't think they ever will.

Mediation

A way of settling Parenting Plan disagreements. A neutral third party, the Mediator, helps the parties agree on a Parenting Plan.

Mediator

A person trained to help persons settle disagreements.

Notary Public

An individual certified to witness and authenticate the signing of legal documents.

Order

A written document recording a Court decision.

Parent Education Class

A class designed to help divorcing parents understand the negative effects of divorce and child custody disputes on children, and to teach parents ways to lessen those negative effects. Parent Education Classes are taught by specially trained persons approved by the Courts.

Parenting Plan

A document which states in detail how divorcing parents will share the responsibilities for raising their children after the parents no longer live together.

Party

In a divorce, the Petitioner is one party, and the Respondent is the other party.

Petition for Divorce

The Petition for Divorce is filed by the party who begins the divorce case, the Petitioner. The Petition states the grounds for divorce, and states what actions the Petitioner wants the Court to take on matters such as the allocation of custodial responsibility for children, child support, spousal support, and the division of marital property.

Petitioner

The person who begins the divorce by filing a Petition for Divorce.

Petitioner's Civil Case Information Statement

A form filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office by the Petitioner at the beginning of the case to provide the Court with information about the case. It is filed with the Petition For Divorce.

Premediation Screening

In divorce cases involving minor children, a process in which a trained Premediation Screener meets separately with both parties to determine if a Mediator can help the parties agree on a joint Parenting Plan.

Relief

What a party to a court case requests from the Court. For example, spousal support would be one type of relief a party might request.

Respondent

The person on the other side of the divorce case from the Petitioner.

Respondent's Civil Case Information Statement

A form filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office by the Respondent to provide the Court with information about the case. It is filed with the Answer To Divorce Petition.

Self-Represented Party

A person who acts as her/his own attorney in a court case. Persons who represent themselves are also referred to as *pro se* litigants, pronounced "pro say."

Separation

In divorce cases, a situation in which Petitioner and Respondent live in separate households and no longer have marital relations.

Service

The delivery, by authorized methods, of a court document.

Servicemembers Civil Relief Act Waiver

This form waives the federal protection to active duty Servicemembers under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act found at 50 U.S.C. App. § 501 *et seq.*

Shared Parenting

The sharing by divorced parents of their responsibilities for raising their children.

Spousal Support

Money paid by a divorced person to the ex-spouse. Formerly called "alimony."

Spouse

A term used to mean an individual who is legally married; i.e.: the Petitioner or Respondent in a divorce action.

Summons

The court document that notifies the Respondent of the filing of the Petitioner's case, and states the amount of time the Respondent has to serve an Answer.

The End

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF MONROE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE:
The Marriage / Children Of:

Civil Action No. _____

_____, and _____
Petitioner (First/Middle/Last) Respondent (First/Middle/Last)

ANSWER TO DIVORCE PETITION

[] YES [] NO Are you currently a party to a domestic violence proceeding?

In answer to the Petition for Divorce, the Respondent says the following:

1. The Respondent admits irreconcilable differences exist between the Petitioner and the Respondent:

2. The Respondent admits all of the allegations in the Petition except the matters contained in the items numbered: _____

3. The Petitioner and Respondent are the parents of:

[] No children were born during this marriage; and no children are expected.

[] The children whose names and dates of birth are:

Table with 4 columns: Name, Date of Birth, Name, Date of Birth. Rows contain slashes for date entry.

In the rest of this Answer, "the children" always means the children whose names you just listed.

[] A child is currently expected, and the estimated date of delivery is ____/____/____.

4. The children currently live with: [] Petitioner [] Respondent.

[] Another person, or persons, whose name(s) and address(es) are:

Three horizontal lines for providing names and addresses.

5. During the last five years, if any of the children have lived at addresses other than their current address, use the following space to list where they lived, and for how long. *If there is not enough room in the following space, use an additional sheet of paper.*

I have attached _____ additional sheet(s).

Child's Name	Address	Dates of Residence

6. Who provides health insurance for the children?

Petitioner Respondent Medicaid WV CHIP

Another person, whose name and address is:

The children DO NOT have health insurance coverage.

The West Virginia Children's Health Insurance Program (WV CHIP) can help parents obtain free or low cost health care for their children. For more information, call 1-877-982-2447, or ask the Family Court staff about WV CHIP.

7. Answer all of the following questions.

YES NO a. Has the Respondent been a party or witness in any other proceeding, in any state, concerning the allocation of custodial responsibility for the children?

YES NO b. Is the Respondent aware of any other proceeding, past or present, in any state, concerning allocation of custodial responsibility for the children?

YES NO c. Is the Respondent aware of any person, other than the Petitioner and Respondent, who has physical custody of, or claims any custodial right concerning the children?

THEREFORE, the Respondent asks that the Court grant a divorce, and to grant such other relief as the Court considers proper, including the matters specifically stated below:

- Approve the Proposed Parenting Plan filed by the Respondent.
- Order the Petitioner to pay support for the minor children.
- Order the Petitioner to maintain health insurance coverage on the children, if reasonably available, and to assist with reasonable health care expenses not covered by insurance or by a government medical card.
- Order the Petitioner to pay spousal support.
- Make a fair and equitable division of marital property.
- Award the Petitioner / Respondent the exclusive use and possession of the marital home located at _____.
- Award the Petitioner/ Respondent the exclusive use and possession of the following motor vehicles: _____.
- Award the Petitioner/ Respondent the exclusive use and possession of the furniture, furnishings and appliances located in the marital home.
- Award the Respondent the exclusive use, possession and ownership of the following marital property

Description of Property	Estimated Value
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

- Order that the Respondent be held solely responsible for the following debts:

Description of Debt	Amount Owed
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

Order that the Petitioner be held solely responsible for the following debts:

Description of Debt	Amount Owed :
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

Prohibit the Petitioner from conveying or otherwise disposing of any marital property prior to the time the Court divides the property.

Grant Respondent the right to resume using the previous name _____

Prohibit the Petitioner from annoying, abusing, threatening, or interfering with the personal liberty and safety of the Respondent.

Grant this other relief:

Respondent's Signature

Date

You must sign the following Verification before a Notary Public or Deputy Circuit Clerk.

VERIFICATION

I, _____, after making an oath or affirmation to tell the truth, say that the facts I have stated in this Answer To Divorce Petition are true to the best of my personal knowledge and belief; and if I have provided information given to me by others, I believe that information to be true.

Signature

Date

This Verification was sworn to or affirmed before me on the _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Notary Public / Other Official

My commission expires: _____.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

State of West Virginia

County of _____

I, _____, state that I mailed my Answer to Divorce Petition by first class United States Mail, postage paid, to _____, at the address of:

on the _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Signature

Date

IN RE:
The Marriage / Children Of:

Case No. _____

Judge: _____

_____, and _____
Petitioner (First/Middle/Last) Respondent (First/Middle/Last)

**RESPONDENT'S CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES**

RESPONDENT'S IDENTIFYING INFORMATION	IMPORTANT NOTICE
<p>Street Address _____</p> <p>City / State / Zip Code _____</p> <p>() - <input type="checkbox"/> Male / <input type="checkbox"/> Female</p> <p>Phone Number _____ / _____ / _____</p> <p>Social Security Number _____ Date of Birth _____</p> <p>Race: <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> White</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if you wish to keep the information in this box CONFIDENTIAL because you fear for your safety and/or the safety of your children.</p> <p>If the box above is checked, this page is sealed in the file and NOT TRANSMITTED with the Petition and Summons.</p> <p>You must complete the form, Affidavit To Withhold Identifying Information, and file it at the Circuit Clerk's Office.</p>

YES NO Do you or any of your clients or witnesses in this case require special accommodations due to a disability?

- IF YES, SPECIFY:*
- Wheelchair accessible hearing room and other facilities;
 - Interpreter or other auxiliary aid for the hearing impaired;
 - Reader or other auxiliary aid for the visually impaired;
 - Spokesperson or other auxiliary aid for the speech impaired;
 - Other: _____

Original and _____ copies of petition enclosed/attached.

INFORMATION REQUESTED BY DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS

**[Pertaining to Divorces and Annulments]
Chapter 16, Article 5, Section 34 of
Code of West Virginia, as Amended**

Civil Action Number: _____

Petitioner's Full Name: _____

Respondent's Full Name: _____

Petitioner's and/or Respondent's Maiden Name: _____

Petitioner's Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ Respondent's Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Place of Marriage: _____
[COUNTY] [STATE]

Date of Marriage: ____ / ____ / ____

Divorce: Yes / No

Annulment: Yes / No

Names of Children Under 18 Years of Age	Date of Birth
	/ /
	/ /
	/ /
	/ /
	/ /
	/ /
	/ /

Date of Decree: _____
[To be Completed by Clerk]

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF MONROE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE: Civil Action No. _____
The Marriage / Children Of: _____

_____, and _____
Petitioner (First/Middle/Last) Respondent (First/Middle/Last)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

This form MUST be completed in ALL DIVORCE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND PATERNITY CASES.

The Petitioner and the Respondent must each complete one of these forms.

The completed form MUST be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office at the time of filing the Petition for Divorce and/or the Answer to Divorce Petition, and a copy must be served on the opposing party. If the Bureau For Child Support Enforcement is a party, a copy of the completed form must also be served on their local office.

If your case involves minor children, or either party requests spousal support, you MUST file the following information WITH your completed Financial Statement.

1. A copy of your most recent wage or salary stub showing gross pay, deductions for taxes and other items, and net pay for a normal pay period, and for the year-to-date;
2. Copies of your and your spouse's complete income tax returns for the two years immediately preceding the date the petition was filed, together with copies of the federal Form W-2 for those years; and a copy of the Form W-2 for the most recent year for which that form is available, even if a tax return has not yet been filed for that year;
3. For self-employed persons and business owners, a copy of a current financial statement showing gross income, expenses, and net income;
4. Copies of any invoices or receipts showing the cost of any extraordinary medical expenses for the party or the children; of any child care expenses, and of any expenses necessitated by the special needs of the children.

If the information you provide in this form changes, or any information you file along with this form changes, you MUST immediately provide the new information. Any updates or changes to the financial statement must be filed in the Circuit Clerks office, and a copy served on the opposing party, pursuant to the scheduling order of the Court. If you do not have a scheduling order, then the information must be filed at least 5 days prior to any hearing.

The information you provide on this form is ONLY for use in the judicial system, and is required by law and court rule to be kept CONFIDENTIAL.

Check this box if you have filed the Affidavit for Withholding Identifying Information.

If this box is checked you do not have to provide your home or employment address or telephone.

Read each question carefully. Provide all requested information. Write or print clearly. After you have completed the form, you MUST sign the Verification on the last page before a Notary Public.

Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Address: _____

Phone Number: (____) ____ - ____ Age: ____

Any Physical or Mental Disability: _____

Education:

Less than High School High School or Equivalent Vocational College Postgraduate

Employer: _____ Type of Work: _____

Employer Address: _____

Phone Number: (____) ____ - ____ Date Employed: ____ / ____ / ____

Gross Pay Per Pay Period: \$ _____

Paid: Weekly Every Two Weeks Twice a Month Monthly

Yes No: Do you receive TANF benefits? If "Yes," list monthly amount: \$ _____

YOUR INCOME: You MUST attach written documentation for all income. For wage earning employees who work fluctuating hours and/or overtime, provide wage history of at least six months, or length of most recent employment, whichever is less. Wage/salary history MUST be documented by W-2 forms, and/or year-to-date figures on the most recent pay stubs. For self-employed individuals, income MUST be verified by documents which show gross income and expenses.

INCOME SOURCE	MONTHLY AMOUNT	INCOME SOURCE	MONTHLY AMOUNT
1. Salary	\$	6. Payments from a Pension Plan	\$
2. Wages	\$	7. Social Security, SSI	\$
3. Commissions	\$	8. Severance Pay, Unemployment	\$
4. Bonuses	\$	9. Worker's Compensation	\$
5. Tips	\$	10. Other (explain below)	\$

Other Income (from No. 10): _____

PROPERTY

List ALL property in which you, and /or your spouse have an interest. In the "Who owns?" column, check "M" for marital property; "P" if separate property of Petitioner; "R" if separate property of Respondent.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	MARKET VALUE	AMOUNT OWED	WHO OWNS
Marital Home	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Other Real Estate	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Mobile Home	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Motor Vehicles	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Household Goods	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Checking Accounts	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Saving Accounts / CDs	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Money Market Certificates	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Stocks	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Credit Union Accounts	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Profit Sharing Plans	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Trusts	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Stocks / Mutual Funds	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Bonds	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Pension Plans	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
IRA / SEP Accounts	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Whole Life Insurance	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Annuities	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Guns	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Tools	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Jewelry	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
Personal Property Not Located In Marital Home	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
*Other	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
	\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R

*Other includes, but is not limited to: coin collections; art; state and federal tax refunds; money owed to you or your spouse; business interests; money expected from a lawsuit or settlement; education benefits; patents; copyrights; royalties; contents of safe deposit boxes; and anything else of value.

PROPERTY CONVEYED TO OTHERS

List all real or personal property with a value of \$500.00 or more that was sold, given away, or otherwise transferred by you and/or your spouse within the last 5 years. Describe each such item; list market value when transferred; list type of transfer; provide name of the person to whom property was transferred; list amount received.

DEBTS

List all debts owed by you, and/or your spouse. In the "Whose debt?" column, check "M" for marital debt; "P" if separate debt of Petitioner; "R" if separate debt of Respondent.

OWED TO WHOM?	AMOUNT OWED	FOR WHAT?	SECURED BY?	WHOSE DEBT?
	\$			<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
	\$			<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
	\$			<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
	\$			<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
	\$			<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
	\$			<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
	\$			<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
	\$			<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
	\$			<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
	\$			<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> R
TOTAL OWED: \$		TOTAL OF ALL MONTHLY PAYMENTS: \$		

CHILDREN

List the names; ages; birth dates; and social security numbers of all minor children involved in this case. Then, answer the list of questions below about the children.

NAME	AGE	DATE OF BIRTH	SOCIAL SECURITY NO.
		/ /	- -
		/ /	- -
		/ /	- -
		/ /	- -
		/ /	- -
		/ /	- -
		/ /	- -

Yes No: Do your children receive social security benefits?

If "Yes," list amount per month: \$ _____.

Yes No: Do your children receive income or wages?

If "Yes," list amount per month: \$ _____.

Yes No: Do your children have any special needs that result in extraordinary expenses that should be taken into account when the court sets the amount of child support?

If "Yes," explain: _____

Yes No: Are child care expenses currently being paid so that the parent who takes care of the children can work or seek work?

If "Yes," how much per month: \$ _____ You MUST attach receipts.

Yes No: Are you the parent of minor children OTHER than the minor children involved in this case?

Yes No: Do you provide support for any disabled adult children?

If "Yes," list these children's names, ages, the nature of their disability, and the amount of support you provide each month. You must attach receipts or other documentation for the support you provide.

NAME	AGE	AMOUNT PER MONTH	NATURE OF DISABILITY
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	

HEALTH INSURANCE

Yes No: Is health insurance available to you through your employment?

If you answered "No," you MUST provide written verification from your employer that health insurance is not available to you. If you have health insurance from ANY source, you MUST complete the following table.

INSURANCE COMPANY NAME		ADDRESS	
POLICY NUMBER	GROUP NUMBER	OTHER ID NO.	RESTRICTIONS
PERSONS COVERED		DEDUCTIBLES	CHILDREN'S PORTION OF PREMIUM (AMT)
		\$	\$

Yes No: Do you have recurring, out-of-pocket health expenses for yourself or your children that are not covered by insurance?

If "Yes," you MUST attach documents that verify these expenses.

CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS

Yes No: Do you currently pay court-ordered child support payments for any children OTHER than the children involved in this case?

If "Yes," you MUST attach a copy of the Support Order, and records showing your payment history; and you must list the following information for each child: full name; birth date; social security number; monthly payment for that child.

FULL NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	SOCIAL SECURITY NO.	MONTHLY PAYMENT
	/ /	- -	\$
	/ /	- -	\$
	/ /	- -	\$
	/ /	- -	\$
	/ /	- -	\$
	/ /	- -	\$
	/ /	- -	\$

SPOUSAL SUPPORT

If you are requesting spousal support, you MUST complete the following list of monthly expenses. These are the amounts you now pay if you are living separate from your spouse. If you have not yet separated, list the amounts you estimate you will have to pay when you do separate.

MONTHLY EXPENSES

ITEM	MONTHLY AMOUNT	ITEM	MONTHLY AMOUNT
Credit Card Payments/Other Payments on Unsecured Debts:	\$	Rent or Mortgage:	\$
Car Payments:	\$	Home Repair / Maintenance:	\$
Car Repairs:	\$	Electric:	\$
Car Insurance:	\$	Water / Sewer:	\$
Gasoline:	\$	Gas:	\$
Food:	\$	Trash:	\$
Clothing:	\$	TV / Cable:	\$
Child Care:	\$	Telephone:	\$
Health Insurance:	\$	Entertainment / Recreation:	\$
Other Insurance:	\$	Explain:	
Medical / Health Not Covered By Insurance:	\$	Explain:	
Other:	\$	Explain:	
TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES: \$			

IF EITHER YOU OR YOUR SPOUSE IS REQUESTING SPOUSAL SUPPORT, YOU MUST COMPLETE THE REST OF THIS FORM.

PETITIONER INFORMATION

PETITIONER'S EDUCATION

Yes No: Graduate from high school?

If "Yes," what year? _____

Yes No: Receive a GED?

If "Yes," what year? _____

Yes No: Graduate from technical or trade school?

If "Yes," list type of training or degree and year received.

Yes No: Graduate from college?

If "Yes," list degree and year received.

Yes No: Receive a post-graduate degree?

If "Yes," list degree and year received.

PETITIONER'S EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

List last four jobs. List employer; position held; dates employment began and ended; and monthly salary.

EMPLOYER	POSITION	BEGIN DATE	END DATE	MONTHLY GROSS INCOME
		/ /	/ /	\$
		/ /	/ /	\$
		/ /	/ /	\$
		/ /	/ /	\$

PETITIONER'S HEALTH

Petitioner's Age: _____

Petitioner's physical health is: Excellent Good Poor. If "Poor," explain:

Petitioner's mental and emotional health is: Excellent Good Poor. If "Poor," explain:

RESPONDENT INFORMATION

RESPONDENT'S EDUCATION

Yes No Graduate from high school?

If "Yes," what year? _____

Yes No Receive a GED?

If "Yes," what year? _____

Yes No Graduate from technical or trade school?

If "Yes," list type of training or degree and year received.

Yes No Graduate from college?

If "Yes," list degree and year received.

Yes No Receive a post-graduate degree? :

If "Yes," list degree and year received.

RESPONDENT'S EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

List last four jobs. List employer; position held; dates employment began and ended; and monthly salary.

EMPLOYER	POSITION	BEGIN DATE	END DATE	MONTHLY GROSS INCOME
		/ /	/ /	\$
		/ /	/ /	\$
		/ /	/ /	\$
		/ /	/ /	\$

RESPONDENT'S HEALTH

Respondent's Age: _____

Respondent's physical health is: Excellent Good Poor. If "Poor," explain:

Respondent's mental and emotional health is: Excellent Good Poor. If "Poor," explain:

OBTAINING ADDITIONAL EDUCATION OR TRAINING

Yes No: Would additional training and/or education help the party seeking spousal support to increase earning ability within a reasonable time?

If "Yes," explain what type of training or education; the estimated yearly cost of such training or education; and the length of time it would take to complete this training or education:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Explain why you think spousal support should be awarded, or denied:

VERIFICATION

I, _____, after making an oath of affirmation to tell the truth, say that the facts I have stated in this Financial Statement are true to the best of my personal knowledge and belief; and if I provided information from others, I believe that information to be true.

I understand that deliberately failing to provide complete disclosure, and knowingly providing incorrect information constitute the crime of false swearing.

Signature

This Verification was sworn to or affirmed before me on the _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Notary Public / Other Official

My commission expires: _____.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

State of West Virginia

County of _____

I, _____, the person completing this Financial Statement, mailed copies of the Financial Statement and all attached documents, by first class mail, postage paid, to:

_____, at the address of _____

_____, at the address of _____

on the _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Signature

Date

BUREAU FOR CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT
APPLICATION AND INCOME WITHHOLDING FORM

This Form MUST Be Completed In All Cases Involving Minor Children or Spousal Support!

Withholding services will begin immediately when the Bureau for Child Support Enforcement receives this completed application, which MUST be accompanied by a copy of the current Support Order IF one is now in effect.

Check this box if a Support Order is NOW in effect.

PETITIONER

Full Name: _____ Birth Date: ____ / ____ / ____ SSN: ____ - ____ - ____

Male / Female Relationship to children involved in this case: _____

Residence Address: _____
 (List complete physical address: county, city, street #, apt. #, zip code)

Mailing Address: _____
 (List mailing address ONLY if different from physical address)

Daytime Phone No: (_____) - _____ Driver's License No: _____

RESPONDENT

Full Name: _____ Birth Date: ____ / ____ / ____ SSN: ____ - ____ - ____

Male / Female Relationship to children involved in this case: _____

Residence Address: _____
 (List complete physical address: county, city, street #, apt. #, zip code)

Mailing Address: _____
 (List mailing address ONLY if different from physical address)

Daytime Phone No: (_____) - _____ Driver's License No: _____

Dependents: (List full name, sex, birth date, social security #, and custodian for each dependent)

Name	Sex	Date of Birth	Social Security No.	Custodian
		/ /	- -	
		/ /	- -	
		/ /	- -	
		/ /	- -	

Income Withholding (List complete address of the employer or other source of income to which an Income Withholding Notice should be sent.)

Pursuant to the Privacy Act [5 U.S.C. 522a], the Bureau for Child Support Enforcement (BCSE) is required to inform you of the following: (a) that the request for your social security number is a mandatory requirement pursuant to the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 466(a)(13)]; and (b) the BCSE will use this information only in connection with the State's child support enforcement program for purposes of establishing paternity and establishing, modifying, and enforcing support obligations.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

- Check this box if you or your children currently receive TANF benefits.
- Check this box if you currently receive, or have applied for DHHR's Child Support Services.

IF YOU CHECKED any of the two items immediately above, skip to the end of the form, SIGN on the line provided, and you are done.

IF YOU DID NOT CHECK any of the two items immediately above, YOU MUST CONTINUE!

- I understand that unless otherwise directed by the Court, any Court Ordered support MUST be collected by the BCSE through Income Withholding.

YOU MUST CHOOSE ONE OF THE THREE FOLLOWING OPTIONS!

OPTION #1:

- I am applying for FULL SERVICES from the BCSE. I understand that full services include, but are not limited to the following: *Collection and distribution of support payments. *Collection and Enforcement of support by income withholding. *Establishment and enforcement of Support Orders. *Establishment of paternity. *Enforcement of Support Orders through Federal and State Tax offsets, unemployment compensation intercepts, and workers' compensation intercepts. *Location of parent(s). *Interstate services.

As an applicant for FULL SERVICES, I AGREE to comply with the following requirements: (1.) I understand I MUST assist the BCSE to establish and enforce paternity, child support, and medical support, and to collect child and spousal support. I understand this assistance may include providing information about the non-custodial parent and responding promptly and completely to requests from the BCSE. I understand I may be required to testify as a witness in court or in other proceedings. (2.) I understand that I am free to pursue legal actions through a private lawyer, but that I must inform the BCSE if I do this. (3.) I understand that I MUST repay all money received in error to which I am not entitled.

OPTION #2:

- I am applying for Income Withholding Services ONLY.

OPTION #3:

- I DID NOT CHECK Option #1 or Option #2. I do not want services from the BCSE at this time. I understand that even though I have not requested services at this time, I can request services at any time by applying at the BCSE office in the county in which I live.

I CERTIFY that I have read and understand all statements on this application, and that all information I have provided is TRUE and ACCURATE to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date

- Check this box if YOU WOULD FEAR FOR YOUR SAFETY, or THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILDREN if your address and telephone number are disclosed.

If you are the party to schedule the hearing in your case use the following form.

Hearings may be scheduled no sooner than 20 days after service has been made on the respondent.

Hearing notices must be sent to both the opposing party and the Circuit Clerk for placement in your case file.

You may schedule a hearing by calling family court at 304-647-7406. Have your names, phone numbers and case number available.

IN RE:
The Marriage Of:

Civil Action No. _____

_____, and _____
Petitioner (First/Middle/Last) Respondent (First/Middle/Last)

NOTICE OF HEARING

(You must contact the Family Court staff to schedule a hearing date.)

TO: _____
Name

Street Address

City / State / Zip Code

You are hereby given notice that the undersigned will bring the above-styled action on for final hearing before the Family Court Judge. The hearing will be on the _____ day of _____, 20____, at _____:____ a.m. / p.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard. Hearings before the Family Court Judge shall be held at the following location:

You may be present to protect your interests.

Signature

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, _____, Petitioner/Respondent in the
(Print Your Name)

foregoing action hereby certify that I have sent a copy of this Notice of Hearing to the Petitioner/Respondent at the above address by depositing a true copy of the same in the U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, this the _____ day of _____, 20____.

Signature

The following forms are optional and are included for your convenience.

Please review the instruction packet to determine if any of these forms pertain to your circumstances.

IN THE _____ COURT OF _____ MONROE _____ COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

Case No. _____

v.

Plaintiff or Petitioner

Defendant or Respondent

**FINANCIAL AFFIDAVIT AND APPLICATION:
ELIGIBILITY FOR WAIVER OF FEES, COSTS, OR SECURITY IN A CIVIL OR DOMESTIC CASE
OR FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH
REQUIRED POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION OR ELECTRONIC MONITORING**

A. Information for the Applicant:

1. You will be allowed to file and carry on your civil proceeding without giving security or paying fees or costs that would otherwise be required, if the court finds that you meet the official financial guidelines.
2. You must complete the affidavit for the court to determine if the costs of either a polygraph examination, required by *W.Va. Code § 62-11D-2*, or electronic monitoring, required by *W.Va. Code § 62-11D-3*, will be paid by the supervising entity.
3. You must file a separate affidavit and application anytime your financial situation no longer meets the official guidelines or anytime the court orders you to do so.
4. You must attach a copy of your most recent salary stub, W-2 form, or other financial documentation (with all social security numbers and all dates of birth removed [*you can black them out*]) that verifies your income. Without the attached documentation, your application will be incomplete and not considered.
5. At any time you may request or the court may require review of your eligibility for a waiver; and at any time the court may require you to pay fees or costs previously waived or to pay future fees or costs.
6. When you sign this form, you will have to swear or affirm that you have completely and truthfully provided all information sought, to the best of your knowledge and ability. *If you knowingly give any incomplete and/or false information, you may be prosecuted for the crime of false swearing.*
7. The information you give in this form will be confidential only in a domestic violence or a divorce case.
8. Except for signatures, all information must be clearly printed.

B. Information about You and Your Case:

1a. Name: _____ 1b. Telephone Number: _____

1c. Address: _____

Case No. _____

2. Describe what is involved in your case:

3a. Do you have a lawyer? Yes No

b. Have you paid or will you have to pay your lawyer? Yes No

c. Will you have to pay your lawyer only if you win? Yes No

4. Check if seeking waiver for:

Cost of required polygraph examination (*W.Va. Code § 62-11D-2*); and/or

Cost of required electronic monitoring (*W.Va. Code § 62-11D-3*).

C. Information about Your Financial Situation:

1a. What is your current yearly net (take-home) income from all sources:

Employer:	\$	Second Job:	\$	Self-Employment:	\$
Public Assistance:	\$	Food Stamps:	\$	Unemployment:	\$
Benefits:	\$	Disability Benefits:	\$	Social Security/SSI:	\$
Alimony:	\$	Pensions:	\$	Rental Income:	\$
Interest:	\$	Dividends:	\$	Annuities:	\$
Odd Jobs:	\$	Other:	\$	(specify):	
YEARLY TOTAL:	\$				

Please remember to attach financial documents which verify this information.

1b. If your listed income is zero (0), please explain below and attach some verification (i.e. DHHR or food stamp information):

2a. List the names and relationships to you of all the persons supported by this income, whether or not they are household members (provided, that these persons can be claimed as dependents on your federal tax return):

2b. What is the total number of dependents, including yourself? _____

3. How much money do you, individually or jointly, have in cash, checking and savings accounts, deposit certificates, and/or bonds (liquid assets)? \$ _____

Case No. _____

4a. List your regular **monthly** household debt-payment and other expenses:

Mortgage/Rent:	\$	Car Payment:	\$	Loan Payments:	\$
Credit Card Payments:	\$	Other Debt Payments:	\$	Utilities:	\$
Cell Phone:	\$	Food:	\$	Child Care:	\$
Child Support:	\$	Alimony:	\$	Medical Bills:	\$
Other Expenses:	\$	(specify):			

4b. What is the total amount of these monthly expenses? \$ _____

5a. List all cars, trucks, motorcycles, or recreational vehicles (all-terrain vehicles, motor homes, snowmobiles, boats), including their make, model, and year, that you own, individually or jointly:

5b. What is the total value of these items less any amount owed? \$ _____

6a. List all real estate (houses, lots, land, rental property, other commercial property) that you, individually or jointly, own.

6b. What is the total value of these items less any amount owed? \$ _____

7. What would the consequences be for you if a waiver of fees, costs, or security is denied?

8. This application consists of three (3) pages and _____ pages of supporting financial documents.

By signing my name on this form, I swear to or affirm: (1) the completeness and truthfulness, to the best of my ability and knowledge, of the information I have provided and (2) my belief that I have a right to a waiver.

Signature of Affiant-Applicant: _____

Taken, subscribed, and sworn or affirmed before me, by the person whose signature appears above, on this _____ day of _____, 20____, in _____ County, West Virginia.

Signature of Notary (Clerk or Deputy Clerk): _____

For Court Use Only

The affiant's application for a waiver is (clerk: initial one) _____ granted _____ denied.

Date: _____ Signature of Clerk or Deputy: _____

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF _____ COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA.

In Re:
The Marriage / Children of:

Civil Action No. _____

_____,
Petitioner

and

_____,
Respondent

Address

Address

Daytime phone

Daytime phone

PROPERTY AGREEMENT

The Petitioner and Respondent agree to the following division of all of their marital property, separate property, and debts.

The Petitioner, _____, shall receive the following property and debts:

The Respondent, _____, shall receive the following property and debts:

By signing this agreement I am representing to the court that:

1. I have entered into the agreement voluntarily.

- 2. I have full and complete knowledge of all property and debts my spouse and I acquired during our marriage and all separate property owned by each of us during the marriage.
- 3. I understand this agreement and believe it to be fair and in my best interest.

 Petitioner

 Date

 Respondent

 Date

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

State of West Virginia

County of _____

I, _____, a Notary Public in the county and state aforesaid do hereby certify that _____, whose name is signed to the writing above has acknowledged the same before me in the aforesaid county and state on _____.

 Notary Public

My commission expires: _____

State of West Virginia

County of _____

I, _____, a Notary Public in the county and state aforesaid do hereby certify that _____, whose name is signed to the writing above has acknowledged the same before me in the aforesaid county and state on _____.

 Notary Public

My commission expires: _____

AFFIDAVIT OF OUT-OF-STATE OR UNKNOWN RESIDENCY

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

COUNTY OF MONROE, to-wit:

I, _____, after being sworn, do say that I am the Petitioner in the foregoing Petition for Divorce now pending in the Family Court of Monroe County, West Virginia; and further that:

The Respondent, _____,

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

is not a resident of the State of West Virginia; and the last known address of the Respondent is _____ County;

OR

After giving my documents twice to the Sheriff in the County where the Respondent resides, the Sheriff has not been able to serve the Respondent;

OR

I have used due diligence to determine the address of the Respondent and have been unable to locate it. The address of the Respondent is unknown to me.

Petitioner, Pro Se

Taken, sworn to, and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Notary Public

My Commission expires _____.

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF MONROE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE: Civil Action No. _____
The Marriage of:

_____, and _____
Petitioner (First/Middle/Last) Respondent (First/Middle/Last)

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

**THE OBJECT OF THIS SUIT IS TO OBTAIN A DIVORCE.
THIS IS A PUBLICATION BY CLASS II LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT.**

To the Above-Named Respondent:

It appearing by affidavit filed in this action that _____

is a non-resident of the State of West Virginia or has an unknown address. It is hereby ordered that

_____ serve upon _____,

(Check only one.) Petitioner / Petitioner's Attorney / Circuit Clerk's Office, whose address is

_____, West Virginia,

an Answer, including any related counterclaim or defense you may have to the Petition For Divorce filed in this

action on or before _____, 20____. If you fail to Answer the Petition for Divorce,

a judgment may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk's Office.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court _____

Clerk of the Court

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF MONROE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

In Re:
The Marriage of

Civil Action No. _____

Petitioner (First/Middle/Last)

and

Respondent (First/Middle/Last)

Address

Address

**CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE
(Name Change)**

W. Va. Code § 48-5-613

This matter is before the Court pursuant to a name change request in the above-styled divorce. The following is hereby provided:

1. That Petitioner's / Respondent's name is _____, as provided on the birth certificate issued by the State of _____.
2. The Petitioner's / Respondent's date of birth is _____ (Date).
3. The Petitioner's / Respondent's social security number is _____.
4. The Petitioner's / Respondent's name is changed to _____ from his or her former name of _____.
5. The effective date of the Petitioner's / Respondent's name change is _____ (Date).

A certified copy of the Certificate of Divorce shall be provided to the Petitioner / Respondent. This Certificate of Divorce may be used for all lawful purposes, including as proof of legal name change for a driver's license or state identification card at the Division of Motor Vehicles. This Certificate of Divorce shall be treated as a pleading and not an order under Rule 6 of the West Virginia Rules of Practice and Procedure for Family Court.

Issued this _____ Family Court Judge

ACCEPTANCE OF SERVICE

I hereby accept service of the Summons and a copy of the Petition in the case styled,

_____ and _____,

Civil Action No. _____, this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

This Acceptance of Service shall have the same force and effect as if personally served upon me in

_____ Monroe _____ County, West Virginia, by the Sheriff of said County.

Signature of Respondent

Provide the information below if you have NOT requested to withhold your identifying information.

Address

() -
Phone

Taken, sworn to, and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Notary Public or Deputy Circuit Clerk

My Commission expires _____.

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF MONROE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE: Civil Action No. _____
The Marriage / Children of:

_____, and _____,
Petitioner (First/Middle/Last) Respondent (First/Middle/Last)

**SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT WAIVER:
WAIVER OF RIGHT TO REQUEST STAY OF PROCEEDINGS**

[To be completed by Military Servicemembers only.]

I acknowledge that I have the right to request a stay of proceedings in this case under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. The stay of proceedings, or continuance, would postpone a hearing in this case if it were granted.

I hereby waive and give up the right to a stay of proceedings. I want to proceed with this case.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Taken, sworn to, and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Notary Public or Deputy Circuit Clerk

My Commission expires _____.

NOTICE to Court Personnel:

Pursuant to Rule 10(b) of the Rules of Practice and Procedure for Family Court, upon the filing of this affidavit in proper form, the person filing the affidavit, or the person in whose interest the affidavit was filed shall be permitted to withhold identifying information from all persons except court personnel whose duties require access to the information; and shall not be required to provide identifying information in pleadings, forms, document filings, or in any other manner. All court personnel with access to such identifying information shall keep the information confidential, and shall withhold it from all persons except other court personnel whose duties require access to the information.

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF _____ COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

In re: The Marriage / Children of:

_____, Petitioner, and _____, Respondent.

Civil Action No. _____.

AFFIDAVIT

to

Withhold Identifying Information

State of West Virginia.

County of _____.

I, _____, after being sworn, state that the health, safety, or liberty of the persons whose names are listed below would be put at risk by the disclosure of information which could be used to locate these persons, or contact them by telephone, or by other means. Persons at risk are: _____

These persons are at risk because: _____

_____ Petitioner ___ Respondent.
(Print your name.) Signature

Sworn to before me this ____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Notary Public

My commission expires _____.