

Guidelines for Pro Se Divorces

You are warned not to file your own divorce petition without a working knowledge of the Texas Family Code, the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules promulgated by this court. This court suggests you to seek the expertise of an attorney. However, if you insist on filing your own divorce petition you must do so in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and the local rules of this court. No one in the district clerk's office or the Judge's office may give you legal advice or tell you how to do so.

You are warned to seek the advice of an attorney when there are children involved. It is highly unlikely that you will be able to present a correct decree that has not been prepared or approved by an attorney when there are children involved.

Settings for uncontested divorces are not automatically made as soon as the 60-day waiting period is concluded. You must call the court coordinator of the County Court at Law to make a setting. All uncontested matters must be scheduled by the court coordinator of this court. It is your responsibility to call the judges court coordinator at 903-657-0344 to set the matter for Final hearing. Prior to setting the cause, the judge requires that you submit to him a final decree of divorce for the judge's approval. If the decree is not approved, you will be required to correct it or seek legal counsel if you have any questions. **THE COURT OR THE CLERK CANNOT GIVE LEGAL ADVICE TO YOU.**

Note: The forms of pleadings, decrees and other papers can be found on website www.texaslawhelp.org

On the day of your scheduled hearing you must appear before the court and be prepared to present adequate testimony regarding your case to the judge in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. The judge cannot assist you in the presentation of your case. You must present a properly prepared decree containing all the necessary and pertinent information regarding your divorce and all state forms filled out and ready to be filed. Failure to properly present your case will result in the divorce being denied, delayed or your case being dismissed.

If the respondent (opposing party) defaults, that is does not file an answer or otherwise appear, then it will be necessary for you to supply a status as to his/her participation in the military and certification of last known address.

Nothing herein above is intended to provide legal advice or to even try to cover all legal matters, complex as they may be, involved in family and civil litigation and you should consult legal counsel to obtain any advice necessary.