

D.O.M. P.D.Q.

(Dissolution of Marriage – Pretty Darn Quick)

Would you like to obtain a dissolution of marriage quickly but your spouse won't sign a joint petition for simplified dissolution? Follow these steps to file for divorce and move it along *yourself*.

1 Start the process by filing:

A petition for dissolution of marriage – make sure to allege:
that neither of you is in the military and
that no children were born during the marriage and
that the Wife is not now pregnant
A Vital Statistics Information Sheet
A Civil Cover Sheet
A Notice of Related Cases

2 To speed things along also file:

A Notice of Confidential Filing of your Social Security Number
A copy of your FL Driver License (issued at least 6 months earlier)
A written Settlement Agreement that is signed by both parties –
if you already have one

3 You must have the other party served

This is a requirement - unless you both have signed a written Settlement Agreement and the opposing party has signed an Answer and Waiver. (See www.flcourts.org for more information.)
(If you cannot get the other party served, call an attorney for help.)

4 Wait for a response

The other party has 20 days to file an answer.
(20 days from when he/she gets served.)

5 File a Motion for Default and Default (Forms 12.922 (a) and (b))
Only if the other side has been served and hasn't filed a response.
(Next, proceed to Step 9.)

6 File a response to their Counterpetition

If the other side files a counter-petition, you have 20 days to file your own response.

7 Get your financial disclosure ready

Both of you have 45 days from filing to comply with Rule 12.285 of the Family Law Rules of Procedure.

8 Attend Mediation or file a Settlement Agreement *that both of you have signed.* If you sign an agreement at mediation, your mediator will file the proper document notifying the court of the outcome. You don't have to attend mediation to settle your case – just file a copy of your fully-executed agreement.

9 File a Notice for Trial *if you did not settle at mediation.*

10 If you settled at Mediation you may not need to attend a trial. Refer to a UCD Checklist and make sure you have filed all the required documents. Then you can send the judge a Final judgment for entry.

These are very simple instructions to help you move your case along. This is not intended to guide you through every situation that might crop up during your divorce nor is this a complete list of relief available to you. *You should seek advice from a family law attorney.* **You can always request a Judicial Case Management Conference to move your case along if the other side isn't being cooperative: file a Motion for Judicial Case Management Conference .**