

Instruction for Completing Simplified Dissolution Forms

There are three forms which must be completed for obtaining a joint simplified dissolution of marriage. All of these forms have been drafted to be self-explanatory and as easy to complete as possible.

With all three forms, you should either type the necessary information or neatly print the information in ink. Fill out all forms completely. Your Circuit Clerk will insert the number (“No.”) on the Affidavit, Petition and Judgment. Even though this is a “Joint” petition, one of the parties must be designated as a “Respondent”. Traditionally, the party seeking the dissolution is the petitioner.

The “Joint Petition for Simplified Dissolution of Marriage” and the “Joint Affidavit Regarding Separation of the Parties, Division of Property and Waiver of Bifurcated Hearing” must be signed in front of a Notary Public. You should also file a copy of your written agreement dividing marital assets, debts and liabilities at the time you file the Petition.

The “Judgment for Dissolution of Marriage” need not be signed in front of a Notary, but should be completed and signed by both parties (below the words “Approved as to Form and Content”) before your hearing. The judge will complete the “Entered” line and sign the Judgment if the dissolution is granted.

The fee to file for dissolution is \$271.00 payable to the Lake County Circuit Clerk. Please pay by cash, money order or credit card. No personal checks will be accepted.

You may make your own copies prior to filing or pay the Lake County Circuit Clerk \$2.00 for the first page and \$.50 for each additional copy. Please pay by cash, money order or credit card. No personal checks will be accepted.

Forms must be notarized prior to filing.

If the wife wishes to return to her maiden or former name, you should complete paragraphs 11 and C of Petition and paragraphs 11 and D of the judgment.

In addition to these three forms, the Circuit Clerk will give you a Certificate of Dissolution of Marriage which you must complete.