

DIVORCE Overview - For informational purposes ONLY. Not legal advice.

STEP #1

Attorney guided

- You have the right to file for divorce without an attorney, but it is always best to consult an attorney.
- Can't afford an attorney? Try Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid @ trla.org
- Notary / Paralegal may NOT solicit legal business.

www.texasbar.com - find a lawyer

Local list of some family law attorneys @ epcounty.com/dro/documents/FLICAttorneyContactList

OR

epcounty.com/lawlibrary
915-273-3699
eplawlibrary@epcounty.com

12th Floor County Courthouse
Weekdays - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Pre-printed packets available \$

STEP #2

Represent yourself - Pro Se / SRL

- START at www.texaslawhelp.org a FREE website
- 4 packet options --

A - No children of the marriage - meaning between the spouses, neither biological nor adopted, under 18.

B - You have children of the marriage, under the age of 18, and you DO NOT have court ordered child support, custody and visitation prior to seeking this divorce.

C - You do have children but already have a court order for custody and support.

D - Same sex spouses

STEP #3

Processing Forms

- PETITIONER - Decide who fills out and files the petition. Only the Petitioner signs this form.
- FILE at the District Clerk's office, Rm. 103 with the original form and 2 copies.
- Or E-file See www.epounty.com/districtclerk
- The other person is the RESPONDENT. This person signs an Answer or Waiver of Service. Waiver signed in front of notary.
- If Respondent does not sign, hire a "process server" to legally SERVE the divorce papers to respondent.

STEP #4

Finalizing Divorce

- 60 day waiting period in most circumstances.
- Petitioner: Contact your assigned court's staff for information to set a hearing date. www.epcounty.com/courts
- Decree / Order must be filled out prior to hearing. Make sure it is legible, complete and without conflicting choices.
- [epcounty.com/DRO](http://www.epcounty.com/DRO) for SRL order review

This is a very broad overview and does not address all possible issues and steps available in a divorce process. Additional information is available at www.texaslawhelp.org www.epcounty.com/courts www.epcounty.com/districtclerk http://www.epcounty.com/courts/documents/388dc/4-Pro-Se-Divorce-Handbook.pdf <http://www.epcounty.com/courts/documents/388dc/5-Pro-Se-Divorce-Spanish-Handbook.pdf>