

YOUR DIVORCE CHECKLIST

- ___/___ Initial petition is prepared and signed.
- ___/___ Petition filed with the court. Your case number is _____
- ___/___ Spouse is served by mail, or in person.

Your 6 months and 1 day start counting from today. That's the earliest you can be divorced in California, which is ___/____. Please be aware that the process is NOT automatic. You still need to file your final paperwork in order to be divorced.

Please note that the respondent has 30 days to file a response, if he or she does not agree with the content of the petition. Even if the respondent chooses not to respond, the court will not accept any more paperwork for that period of time.

- ___/___ Proof of service is filed.
- ___/___ Questionnaires with information for finals is returned to The Document People.
- ___/___ Finals are prepared.
- ___/___ Finals are reviewed and signed by both parties.
- ___/___ Finals are filed with the court.

Please note: shortly after the final paperwork is filed, the respondent will receive in the mail the filed Request to Enter Default (if that hasn't happened already). That notifies the respondent that an answer was not filed, and the case will continue as a default judgment. It does not mean that the final paperwork has been reviewed and approved. Only that the default has been entered.

Depending on the court you that your case in, it will take approx. 4 to 6 months for the judge to review your final paperwork and sign off.

Your divorce will be effective either 6 months and 1 day from the day your spouse is served, as indicated above OR the day the judge will sign off on your final paperwork, if the paperwork hasn't been signed off within the 6 months and one day period. So it's in your best interest to return those questionnaires in a timely manner to avoid delays.

Once the judge reviews and approves your finals, the court should send both you and your now former spouse the paperwork for you to be kept for your records. Even if we make complete multiple copies for both spouses, often times the clerks only send the Judgment and the Notice of Entry of Judgment in the mail. That's all you need to have to show you are divorced.

If you are like the majority of our customers, you'll receive these papers in the mail before your six months and one day are over. That means that everything went fine, but you'll still have to wait for that date in the future to be legally divorced. On that date, do not expect more paperwork from the court. And don't expect a certificate either – they only give you one when you get married, not when you divorce!

If you are a woman, and choose to restore your maiden name, take the filed Judgment to DMV or Social Security and they'll issue a new driver license or card with your restored name.

If you want to check the progress of your case, go to www.lasuperiorcourt.org.

Under “Family” select “Case Summaries”. On the next screen, scroll to the area at the bottom, and type your case number. Please remember that they are always a few days behind in updating the website, so don’t expect something that has been filed today to show up same day.

After we have submitted the finals to the court, there is nothing more we can do. If you feel you need to talk to the clerks for any reason, please call the court directly.



North Central	Glendale Courthouse	January 6, 1998
Northeast	Pasadena Courthouse	June, 1997
North Valley	San Fernando Courthouse	July, 1998
Northwest	Van Nuys Courthouse	February 1, 2001
South	Long Beach Courthouse	January, 1999
South Central	Compton Courthouse	September, 1999
Southeast	Norwalk Courthouse	February 11, 2003
Southwest	Torrance Courthouse	February, 1997
West	Santa Monica Courthouse	July 2, 2004

Enter a case number, select a filing courthouse (required for Limited Jurisdiction cases only) and click search.

CASE NUMBER:

FILING COURTHOUSE: 

(Required for Limited Jurisdiction cases only)