

TYPICAL DIVORCE PROCESS

COMPLAINT/PETITION FOR DIVORCE FILED

THIS IS THE LEGAL DOCUMENT INITIATING THE DIVORCE FILED WITH THE CLERK OF THE COURT IN THE APPROPRIATE COUNTY.

DISCOVERY PHASE

DISCOVERY OCCURS AS LONG AS NECESSARY UP UNTIL THE FINAL TRIAL. EACH PARTY GATHERS CRITICAL INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE. THERE ARE FOUR TYPES OF DISCOVERY: INTERROGATORIES, REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION, REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION, AND DEPOSITIONS.

MEDIATION

A NEUTRAL PERSON FACILITATES DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE SPOUSES IN THE EFFORT OF REACHING AN AGREEMENT WITHOUT THE NEED FOR A LONG DRAWN OUT TRIAL.

LATE CASE EVALUATION OR JUDICIAL HOSTED SETTLEMENT

THIS IS USUALLY SCHEDULED ABOUT 120 DAYS INTO THE PROCEEDINGS IF THE JUDGE BELIEVES A LATE CASE EVALUATION MAY RESULT IN A SETTLEMENT THUS ELIMINATING THE NEED FOR A TRIAL.

COMPLAINT SERVED TO SPOUSE

THE SUMMONS AND THE COMPLAINT ARE SERVED TO THE DEFENDANT THUS INITIATING THE DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS.

SPOUSES RESPONSE TO COMPLAINT DUE

THE PERSON SERVED HAS 30 DAYS TO RESPOND TO THE SUMMONS. HE/SHE MUST RESPOND TO THE SPOUSES CLAIMS AND ASSERT HIS/HER OWN DEFENSIVES. THIS CAN BE FILED ON THEIR OWN OR BY AN ATTORNEY.

TEMPORARY HEARING

THE PURPOSE OF THIS HEARING PROVIDES A TEMPORARY PLAN IN WHICH TO WORK DURING THE DIVORCE PROCEEDING OR OTHER FAMILY LAW MATTER. THIS IS ESPECIALLY HELPFUL WHEN NEITHER PARTY CAN AGREE ON CERTAIN ARRANGEMENTS.

GOING TO TRIAL

THIS IS USUALLY 6 MONTHS TO A YEAR AFTER THE COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE IS FILED. AT THIS POINT, NEITHER PARTY HAS BEEN ABLE TO AGREE ON ALL AREAS OF THE DIVORCE DESPITE GOING THROUGH MEDIATION, SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES AND THE SORT. THE TRIAL IS THE FINAL ALTERNATIVE.

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
AND DIVORCE FINALIZED**

