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.

COMPLAINT SERVED TO SPOUSE
The summons and the complaint are served to the other party thus initiating the divorce proceedings.

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

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.

MEDIATION
A neutral third-party legal professional is hired to facilitate discussions between the spouses in an effort to reach an agreement without the need for a long, drawn out trial.

TEMPORARY HEARING
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. Not needed in every case.

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.

GOING TO TRIAL
This is usually up 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 or settlement conferences. The trial is the final alternative.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND DIVORCE FINALIZED