



**Mariyana T.
Spyropoulos**

Clerk of the Circuit Court Cook County

Family Law

The Domestic Relations Division hears a variety of cases, including:

- Dissolution of Marriage/Civil Union
- Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage
- Allocation of Parental Responsibilities
- Parentage
- Child Support
- Civil Orders of Protection
- Maintenance
- Legal Separation
- Orders of Protection where there is a pending dissolution or parentage matter

**Domestic Relations, Room 802
Daley Center, 50 W. Washington
Chicago, IL
(312) 603-6300**

What does it mean to have an uncontested versus a contested divorce?

In an uncontested divorce, both sides agree on the divorce, division of marital property, and child custody and visitation issues. In a contested divorce, the parties disagree about one or more of these areas.

What documents are required to file an uncontested divorce?

You need a State Certificate of Dissolution and Invalidity of Marriage, a Domestic Relations Division cover sheet, a Certification and Agreement by Counsel certifying that there are no contested issues, Affidavit, and a Waiver of Two-Year Waiting Period. These four forms are available at the Clerk's Office. You must also self-draft a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage. To obtain a court date, the respondent must file their appearance. All forms, other than the state certificate and self-drafted forms, are available online at www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org.

What documents are required to file a contested divorce?

You need a State Certificate of Dissolution & Invalidity of Marriage, a Domestic Relations Division cover sheet, and a Summons, which are available in room 802. You must also self-draft a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage.

How can I get a certified copy of my Cook County divorce decree?

Come to Room 802 of the Daley Center or call (312) 603-6300, or go to the suburban courthouse where your case was heard. If the case was filed before 1987, please contact the Archives Department in Room 1113 of the Daley Center or call (312) 603-6601.

Can I review my file?

If your case was filed within the last ten (10) years, you can view the electronic information of your file on our website cookcountyclerkofcourt.org. If the case you'd like to view is older, our office can order the file from the Records Center or have the Record Center locate the physical file to be scanned into the system for viewing in our office areas.

***The Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County is barred by law from providing legal advice.
This document is not legal advice. If you have any questions, you should consult an attorney.***

Self Represented Litigant Center: (872) 529-1093

Customer Service: (312) 603-5030

www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org



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How do I file for Joint Simplified Dissolution of Marriage?

You and your spouse must both be present to file the case in Room 802 of the Daley Center prior to 2:00 p.m. for a judge to hear your case on the same day. Both parties must present valid photo identification.

You must meet the following requirements:

- The duration of the marriage must not exceed eight years
- There are irreconcilable differences, the parties have been separated six months or more, and efforts at reconciliation have failed or future attempts would be impracticable and not in the best interests of the family
- There are no children and the wife is not pregnant
- Neither party is dependent on the other for support
- Each party waives the right to spousal support
- Neither party has an interest in real estate
- The total fair market value of all marital property, after deducting all debts owed, is less than \$10,000
- The total annual income of both parties is less than \$35,000 and neither party has a gross annual income from all sources in excess of \$20,000
- Both parties have disclosed to each other all assets and tax returns for all years of the marriage
- The parties have executed a written agreement dividing all assets in excess of \$100.00 in value and allocating responsibility for debts and liabilities between themselves

Where do I go to apply for child support?

All child support matters can be addressed in the Domestic Relations Division at 50 W. Washington, Room 802, Chicago, IL 60602 or (312) 603-6300.

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