

## INFORMATION FOR FILING A DIVORCE – PRO SE – JASPER COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK

THE DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE DOES NOT SUPPLY FORMS NECESSARY TO FILE FOR DIVORCE.

WE ARE NOT ATTORNEYS AND ARE LEGALLY PROHIBITED FROM GIVING ANY LEGAL ADVICE.

If you intend to represent yourself "Pro Se" (without the assistance of an attorney) you must have knowledge to prepare and file the necessary pleadings and present your cause to the Court.

You can find a Pro Se Divorce Handbook which includes instructions and paperwork at the following website: [http://www.tyla.org/tasks/sites/default/assets/File/37603-ProSeDivorceBookEng\\_2010\\_FINAL\(1\).pdf](http://www.tyla.org/tasks/sites/default/assets/File/37603-ProSeDivorceBookEng_2010_FINAL(1).pdf)

The only suggestion of advice that we can offer is that you purchase a book on "How to do your Divorce in Texas", go to the Public Library and purchase a Divorce packet, refer to the website: [texaslawhelp.org](http://texaslawhelp.org) or see an attorney.

### PROCEDURES FOR FILING YOUR OWN DIVORCE

1. Bring your original petition and 2 copies to the District Clerk's office to be filed.
2. The filing fees are: Divorce where spouse signs Waiver of Service - \$257.00 and Divorce with Citation and Service in Jasper County - \$345.00 – Due at the time of filing.
3. Your Petition will be filed and assigned a cause number. Please have this information available when contacting our office concerning your case.
4. The Petition must be on file for at least 60 days before the final hearing can be held. After the 60 days have expired and the Defendant has been served or signed a Waiver of Service, you may appear before the Court to have Final Decree of Divorce entered. Family Court is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of every month. You will need to report to the District Clerk's office around 8:15 a.m. on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday.
5. On the day of the hearing you must bring Final Decree of Divorce filled out in the areas that apply to you and you must complete the Vital Statistics form that may be picked up in the District Clerk's office.
6. If you or your spouse wants the wages garnished from a paycheck for child support then you will need to speak with the District Clerk's office regarding this. You will need the Employer's name, address and phone number. There will also be a \$15.00 fee for issuing the withholding order.

YOU WILL RECEIVE TWO (2) CERTIFIED COPIES OF YOUR DECREE AT THE TIME THE DIVORCE IS FINALIZED. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING A COPY TO YOUR EX SPOUSE.

WE ARE SORRY THAT WE CANNOT LEGALLY HELP YOU WITH ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, BUT YOU MAY CONTACT LEGAL AID AT 1-800-354-1889 FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THESE INSTRUCTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT 409-384-2721. WE ARE OPEN MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY FROM 8:00 A.M. UNTIL 4:30 P.M.