

CONTESTED DIVORCE—NO CHILDREN  
COVER SHEET FOR FILING YOUR PRO SE DIVORCE  
Free to download; \$30.00 for paper copy

The forms presented in this packet are designed to guide you in the preparation of your divorce papers. You must fill in the required information as it applies to your situation. Your papers should remain in the same order as they appear in this packet. If you do not have access to a typewriter, you may fill the papers out by hand in neat print using BLACK ink.

You should fill in every blank line EXCEPT for the civil action file number blanks and the lines provided for signatures by the Notary Public and the Judge.

In the Complaint and the Settlement Agreement, some sections have two possible answers, separated by an [OR]. In these sections, you must choose which of the two choices fits best in your situation, and then include only that choice in your documents. The other choice should be ignored, and should not be included in your documents.

Make sure that everything is signed. All signatures that require notarization must be notarized before your documents will be approved for filing.

**Neither the Clerk of the Superior Court, nor any Deputy Clerk, nor the Law Librarian, nor the Judges, or any other Court personnel, is allowed to answer any questions for you concerning the preparation of these forms. State Law O.C.G.A. §15-19-51 forbids court personnel to give legal advice.** Different situations may require special procedures and courthouse personnel cannot advise you on how to proceed or what forms may be necessary in specific situations. Divorce can be very complicated. The only person allowed to help you in the preparation of these forms is a licensed attorney hired to represent you. Please consult an attorney if you have questions about the procedure or what action is best for you to take.

**YOU MAY NEED AN ATTORNEY IF:**

- The case is contested and your spouse has a lawyer.
- You cannot locate your spouse to serve him or her with your papers.
- You or your spouse has a house, pension, or large amount of property or income.
- You might lose custody of your children.
- You think you will have difficulty getting documents from your spouse about retirement funds, income, etc.
- Even if it is a friendly divorce, you should talk to a lawyer before you sign any settlement papers or file anything in court.

Remember, you must fully complete the forms before the Judge will be able to grant you a decree of divorce. Incomplete forms, as well as forms that are improperly filled out, may delay the grant of your divorce. Make sure that you take time to read over all the forms, and understand what is being asked of you in each situation. An accompanying instruction packet is available to help you as you complete these forms.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
Defendant  
)  
)  
)  
)  
) Civil Action File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)

**COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE**

Plaintiff, \_\_\_\_\_ [Name], comes before this Court and shows this Court as follows:

1.

**Residence requirement (Check only one: a, b or c)**

- a) Plaintiff is a resident of \_\_\_\_\_ County, Georgia, and has been a resident of Georgia for at least six months prior to the filing of this action.
- b) Plaintiff is a resident of \_\_\_\_\_ County, Georgia, and has resided at the \_\_\_\_\_ military post for at least one year before filing this petition.
- c) Plaintiff is not a resident of the State of Georgia, but Plaintiff's spouse has been a resident of the state of Georgia and the county of \_\_\_\_\_ for at least six (6) months prior to my filing this action.

2.

**Venue (Check only one: a, b, c, d, e, or f)**

- a) I am filing the divorce in the county where the Defendant lives. The Defendant is a resident of \_\_\_\_\_ County, Georgia, and has signed an Acknowledgement of Service (p. 11) of the Complaint and Summons and has waived further service of process.

b) I am filing the divorce in the county where the Plaintiff lives. Defendant is a resident of \_\_\_\_\_ County, \_\_\_\_\_ (state) and has signed an ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SERVICE AFFIDAVIT OF WAIVER OF VENUE AND PERSONAL JURISDICTION (p. 12).

c) I am filing in the county where the Defendant lives. Defendant is a resident of \_\_\_\_\_ County, Georgia and may be served at his/her residence/work address of:

\_\_\_\_\_.

d) I am filing in the county where the Plaintiff lives. The Defendant is a resident of \_\_\_\_\_ County, Georgia but Defendant and I lived together in my current home County, \_\_\_\_\_ [name of county] at the time we separated. The Defendant has only moved from this County within the past six months from the date of this filing. Defendant shall be served by second original at his/her home/work address of

\_\_\_\_\_.

e) I am filing in the county where the Plaintiff lives. The Defendant is a resident of Georgia, but his/her whereabouts are unknown to me as shown by my Affidavit of Due Diligence (pp. 16-17) attached hereto and incorporated by reference, marked Exhibit A. The Defendant shall be served by publication as is provided by law in the case of those who cannot be found within the State pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9-11-4(f)(1). The clerk shall mail a copy of the Notice, Order for Service by Publication, and Petition for Divorce to the last known address of Defendant, which is

\_\_\_\_\_ ,  
within 15 days of the filing of the Order for Service by Publication.

f) I am filing this Complaint in the county where the Plaintiff lives.

Defendant is not a resident of the State of Georgia, but I am a resident of

\_\_\_\_\_ County Georgia and **(Check 1 or 2)**

1.  The Defendant was formerly a resident of the State of Georgia and presently is a resident of \_\_\_\_\_.

Defendant may be served by a second original pursuant to the Long Arm Statute, O.C.G.A. § 9-10-91(5). Defendant may be served at the following address: \_\_\_\_\_.

2.  The Defendant's whereabouts are unknown to me as shown by my Affidavit of Due Diligence (pp. 17-18), attached hereto and incorporated by reference, marked Exhibit A. The Respondent shall be served by publication as is provided by law in the case of those who cannot be found within the State pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9-10-91(5). The clerk shall mail a copy of the Notice, Order for Service

3.

**Date of Marriage (Check only one: a or b)**

a) Plaintiff and Defendant were lawfully married on

\_\_\_\_\_ [Date] in \_\_\_\_\_ County,

\_\_\_\_\_ [State].

b) Plaintiff and Defendant are common law married, having entered into a common law marriage before January 1 1997 as of \_\_\_\_\_(date) in \_\_\_\_\_ County, \_\_\_\_\_ (State).

*Note: Common law marriage was abolished in Georgia on January 1, 1997.*

4.

**Date of Separation**

The Defendant and I separated on \_\_\_\_\_ and have remained in a bona fide state of separation since that date.

5.

**Grounds for Divorce (Check one or more grounds that you can prove)**

Plaintiff is entitled to a divorce from the Defendant on the statutory grounds that:

The marriage is **irretrievably broken** and there is no hope of reconciliation, under O.C.G.A. § 19-5-3(13). [*This is the no-fault divorce provision.*]

**Cruel Treatment.** My spouse committed the following acts of cruel treatment to me such that I am afraid he/she will hurt me in the future:

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**Adultery.** My spouse has had sexual intercourse outside the marriage.

**Desertion.** On or about \_\_\_\_\_ (date), my spouse, without just cause or reason, intentionally abandoned and deserted me for a period of at least one year as follows: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Intermarriage.** My spouse and I are related as follows:

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**Mental incapacity.** I did not have the mental capacity to enter into a marriage when we married because

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**Impotency.** My spouse was impotent at the time of our marriage, and I was not aware of this.

**Force, menace, duress, fraud in obtaining the marriage.** I entered this marriage against my will as a result of

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**Pregnancy of the wife at the time of the marriage unknown to the husband.** I did not know that my spouse was pregnant by another man when we got married.

**Conviction of party for an offense involving moral turpitude.** On or about \_\_\_\_\_, my spouse was sentenced to serve at least two years in the penitentiary for the following:

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**Habitual intoxication.** My spouse is repeatedly intoxicated.

**My spouse has been adjudged mentally ill by a court of competent jurisdiction.** My spouse has been confined in an institution for the mentally ill for a

period of at least two years immediately preceding this action. My spouse's mental illness has been determined to be incurable by competent examiners, and I have attached a certified statement that it is this person's opinion that my spouse is hopelessly and incurably mentally ill.

- Habitual Drug Addiction.** My spouse is addicted to drugs as follows:

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6.

**Alimony (Check only one: a, b or c)**

- a) I am seeking temporary alimony which will end on the date of the final decree of divorce. I did not engage in adultery, desertion, cruel treatment, or other fault grounds for divorce.
- b) I am seeking temporary and permanent alimony which will last until I remarry or until my former spouse or I should die. I did not engage in adultery, desertion, cruel treatment, or other fault grounds for divorce.
- c) I expressly waive (give up) alimony for the past, present, and future.

7.

**Marital Property (Check only one: a, b or c)**

- a) Defendant and I have no marital property.
- b) Defendant and I have already divided our marital property to our mutual satisfaction.
- c) Defendant and I have the following marital property that I have checked, and I am seeking an equitable division of this property.

- A house located at

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A notice of Lis Pendens (p. 20) is attached hereto as Exhibit “\_\_\_\_\_.”

- Pension(s): Mine \_\_\_\_\_ My spouse’s \_\_\_\_\_.
- Motor vehicles (list make, model & year):

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- Furniture (list or attach list):

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- Bank accounts and investments (list or attach list)

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- Other:

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8.

**Joint Debts (Check only one: a or b)**

- a) Defendant and I have no joint outstanding debts.
- b) Defendant and I have the following debts. I have indicated which party should be responsible for each debt. The responsible party will indemnify and hold harmless the non-responsible party for any collection on these obligations.

Creditor	Amount	Responsible Party

9.

**Name Restoration**

My former name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I request that it be restored to me.

10.

**Minor Children**

There are no minor children born of the marriage and the wife is not now pregnant.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests:

- a) That the parties herein be totally divorced;
- b) That the Court grant Plaintiff ownership of the above-requested items of property;
- c) That the Plaintiff have such other and further relief as this Court deems equitable and just.

Respectfully submitted, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Plaintiff *pro se* [Signature]

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address & telephone number

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
Defendant  
)  
)  
)  
)  
) Civil Action File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)

**VERIFICATION**

Personally appeared before me the Plaintiff who on oath states that the facts set forth in this Complaint are true and correct to the best of  his or  her knowledge and belief.

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Plaintiff *pro se*  
Sign in front of a Notary Public

Sworn and subscribed before me  
This \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of Georgia

My Commission Expires \_\_\_\_\_.

IN THE \_\_\_\_\_ COURT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_, )  
Plaintiff, )  
v. )  
\_\_\_\_\_, ) Civil Action File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant )  
)  
)  
)

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SERVICE AND SUMMONS**

The undersigned Defendant hereby acknowledges service of the above Summons and Complaint for Divorce and states that (s)he has received a copy of said Complaint, and Defendant hereby waives any further service of process.

This the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

Sworn to and subscribed before me  
This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Defendant *pro se*  
[Sign in front of a Notary Public]

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Notary Public, State of Georgia  
My Commission Expires \_\_\_\_\_.

[The Defendant does not have to be served by the Sheriff if s/he signs this form]

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

_____ ,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Civil Action No. _____
	)	
_____ ,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

**DEFENDANT’S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SERVICE  
AFFIDAVIT OF WAIVER OF VENUE AND PERSONAL JURISDICTION**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the named Defendant in the above-styled case, after being duly sworn do hereby depose and say that I am a resident of \_\_\_\_\_ County, \_\_\_\_\_ (state), and that the Plaintiff in the above-styled case is a resident of \_\_\_\_\_ County, Georgia. I affirm that I have received a copy of said Petition/Complaint, and I hereby waive any and all further notice, service, and issuance of process.

After being duly informed that I have a constitutional right to a trial by judge or jury on the above matter in the county of my residence, and with that knowledge, I hereby expressly waive my right to venue in the county of my residence, and consent to venue and personal jurisdiction in the county of this superior court.

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant Affiant  
[Sign in the presence of a Notary Public]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

**[The Plaintiff can file the divorce in his/her home county if the Defendant signs this form]**



IN THE \_\_\_\_\_ COURT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
Defendant  
)  
)  
)  
)  
) Civil Action File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
)  
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**RULE NISI WITH TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER**

The within and foregoing Complaint having been read and considered, the same is Allowed, Ordered and Filed; and let a copy thereof be served upon the Defendant as required by law.

Plaintiff is hereby awarded temporary use and possession of the former marital residence located at \_\_\_\_\_ Defendant is ordered to vacate the residence upon service. Defendant shall be allowed to take with him his clothing and other purely personal items. Defendant is ordered to surrender all keys to the marital residence to the serving Deputy.

Defendant is hereby restrained and enjoined from coming about, calling or otherwise contacting the Plaintiff in any fashion at any location.

Plaintiff is hereby awarded temporary use and possession of the \_\_\_\_\_ vehicle. Defendant is ordered to surrender all keys to the \_\_\_\_\_ vehicle to the serving Deputy.

Let the Defendant show cause before me on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, at my office in the Courthouse in \_\_\_\_\_ County, Georgia at \_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_.m., why the prayers of Plaintiff for temporary relief should not be granted as requested.

In the meantime and until further order of this Court, the Defendant is restrained and enjoined from: molesting, harassing, or harming the Plaintiff; from following the Plaintiff; from interfering with the personal property held by the Plaintiff; or from entering the Plaintiff's dwelling house.

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge, Superior Court of \_\_\_\_\_ County

Presented by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Plaintiff *pro se* [Sign here]

[This form sets the initial hearing date and may give temporary relief to the Plaintiff]

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_, )  
Plaintiff, )  
v. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ ) Civil Action File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant )  
)  
)  
)

**MOTION FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION**

Comes plaintiff, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9-10-71, and moves the court for an order directing that service on the defendant be made by publication upon the grounds that he/she cannot, after due diligence, be found within the state, as more fully appears from the affidavit filed herewith and attached hereto.

\_\_\_\_\_  
/S/ Plaintiff *pro se* [Sign here]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

[Use this form if you do not know where the Defendant is and therefore can't have him/her served.]

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_, )  
Plaintiff, )  
v. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ ) Civil Action File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant )  
)  
)  
)

**AFFIDAVIT OF DUE DILIGENCE--SERVICE BY PUBLICATION**  
**O.C.G.A. §9-11-4(e)**

Personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, who, after being duly sworn, states:  
That the Defendant resides outside the State of Georgia, and his/her last known  
address is \_\_\_\_\_.

--or--

That the Defendant has departed from the State of Georgia or cannot after due  
diligence be found within the state. The Defendant's last known address is  
\_\_\_\_\_.

--or--

The last known residence of the Defendant was outside the State of Georgia at  
\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_. The Defendant no longer  
resides at the foregoing address, nor within the State of Georgia, to the best of Affiant's  
knowledge, and the present address or whereabouts of the Defendant is unknown to the  
Affiant.

--or--

The affiant has made a diligent effort to locate defendant by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

And cannot find defendant within this state for the reason that defendant has  
concealed himself by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[Use this form if you do not know where the Defendant is and therefore can't have him/her served.]

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Affiant has no knowledge as to the present residence or whereabouts of the defendant.  
The affiant has made the following efforts to find the Defendant (check all that apply)

Checking with the Defendant's friends and relatives  
Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of everyone plaintiff contacted:  

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Contacting the Defendant's former landlord  
Name, address, & telephone number of former landlord:  

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Checking telephone information and directories  
List which directories you checked:  

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Attempting to have Defendant served at his/her last known address, which is listed above  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*/S/ Plaintiff pro se*  
Sign in the presence of a Notary Public

Sworn to and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
Use this form if you do not know where the Defendant is and therefore can't have him/her served.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_, )  
Plaintiff, )  
v. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ ) Civil Action File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant )  
)  
)  
)

**ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION**

Plaintiff having moved the Court for an order directing service to be made upon defendant \_\_\_\_\_ in the above-styled action by publication of summons, and it appearing to the Court from the verified Complaint and Affidavit in support of such motion that defendant is a nonresident and that the action is an action in which a defendant may be served by publication pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9- 10-71, it is

ORDERED, that service upon \_\_\_\_\_ be made by publication as provided by law.

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ (year).

\_\_\_\_\_  
JUDGE [or, CLERK]  
Superior Court

\_\_\_\_\_ County, Georgia

Presented by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Plaintiff *pro se* [Sign here]

[Use this form if you do not know where the Defendant is and therefore can't have him/her served.]

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
Defendant  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)  
) Civil Action File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)

**NOTICE OF SUMMONS—SERVICE BY PUBLICATION**

TO: \_\_\_\_\_, Defendant Named Above:

You are hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking

\_\_\_\_\_ [state the relief sought]  
was filed against you in said court on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, and that by reason of an  
order for service of summons by publication entered by the court on \_\_\_\_\_. 20\_\_\_\_  
you are hereby commanded and required to file with the clerk of said court and serve  
upon \_\_\_\_\_, plaintiff, whose address is \_\_\_\_\_,  
an answer to the complaint within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by  
publication. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the  
relief demanded in the complaint.

Witness the Honorable \_\_\_\_\_, judge of said court.

This the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ (year).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Court

[Use this form if you do not know where the Defendant is and therefore can't have him/her served.]



**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

) )  
\_\_\_\_\_, )  
Plaintiff, )  
 )  
v. )  
 )  
 ) Civil Action File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, )  
Defendant )  
 )  
 )  
 )

**FINAL JUDGMENT AND DECREE**

Upon consideration of this case, upon evidence submitted as provided by law, it is the judgment of the Court that a total divorce be granted, that is to say, a divorce *a vinculo matrimonii*, between the parties to the above stated case upon legal principles.

It is considered, ordered and decreed by the Court that the marriage contract heretofore entered into between the parties to this case, from and after this date, be and is set aside and dissolved as fully and effectually as if no such contract had ever been made or entered into.

Petitioner and Respondent in the future shall be held and considered as separate and distinct persons altogether unconnected by any nuptial union or civil contract whatsoever and both shall have the right to remarry. Each party is restrained and enjoined from molesting or harassing the other party.

The Court restores to \_\_\_\_\_ her prior maiden name, to wit:  
\_\_\_\_\_.

The Court fixes alimony as follows: \_\_\_\_\_.

The Court grants to Plaintiff the following items property: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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The Court divides up the parties debts as follows:

Creditor	Amount	Responsible Party

The responsible party will hold harmless the non-responsible party for any collection on these obligations.

Decree and order entered this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge, \_\_\_\_\_ County Superior Court