LEGAL SEPARATION WITHOUT MINOR CHILDREN



Response

Part 3: Respond to a Petition for Legal Separation

(Forms and Instructions)

071223

RESPONSE

TO PETITION AND PAPERS FOR LEGAL SEPARATION WITHOUT MINOR CHILDREN

CHECKLIST

Use the forms and instructions in this packet **only if** the following factors apply to your situation:

- ✓ You want to file a response to a Petition for Legal Separation Without Minor Children, AND
- ✓ You and your spouse have no minor children with each other, AND
- ✓ You do not agree with what your spouse wrote in the Petition.

READ ME: Consulting a lawyer before filing documents with the court may help prevent unexpected results. A list of lawyers you may hire to advise you on handling your own case or to perform specific tasks, as well as a list of court-approved mediators can be found on the Law Library Resource Center website.

Legal separation without minor children

Part 3: Respond to a Petition for Legal Separation

This packet contains court forms and instructions to file for a legal separation without minor children. Items in BOLD are forms that you will need to file with the Court. Non-bold items are instructions or procedures. Do not copy or file those pages!

Order	Title	# Pages
1	Checklist: You may use these forms if	1
2	Table of Contents (this page)	1
3	Instructions & Procedures: How to respond to a "Petition for Legal Separation Without Minor Children	4
4	Helpful information: How to file a Response to a "Petition for Legal Separation Without Minor Children"	2
5	"Family Department Sensitive Data / Cover Sheet in Cases Without Minor Children" Do not copy.	1
6	"Response to Petition for Legal Separation without Minor Children"	8

The documents you have received are copyrighted by the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County. You have permission to use them for any lawful purpose. These forms shall not be used to engage in the unauthorized practice of law. The Court assumes no responsibility and accepts no liability for actions taken by users of these documents, including reliance on their contents. The documents are under continual revision and are current only for the day they were received. It is strongly recommended that you verify on a regular basis that you have the most current documents.

Instructions and Procedures: How to respond to a petition for legal separation without minor children

COMPLETING THE FORMS IN THIS PACKET:

- Type or print with black ink only.
- Complete the "Sensitive Data Sheet" (Do NOT copy or provide this document to the other party).
- Make sure your form is titled "RESPONSE TO PETITION FOR LEGAL SEPARATION WITHOUT MINOR CHILDREN."
- In the top left corner of the first page, fill out the following: Your name; address (if not protected); city, state and zip code; telephone number; leave the ATLAS number blank. Then state whether you are representing yourself or whether an attorney represents you.
- Fill in the name of Petitioner/Party A and Respondent/Party B exactly the same way as it looks on the Petition. Do this for every document you file with the court regarding this case from now on.
- Use the case number that is stamped in the upper right-hand corner of the Petition. Do this for all documents you file with the court regarding this case from now on.
- WAIT to sign the Response until you are in front of the Deputy Clerk of Superior Court or a Notary.

INFORMATION ABOUT PROPERTY AND DEBTS:

- Community property is generally any property you and your spouse purchased during your marriage or that was paid for during the marriage, regardless of who uses the property or who actually paid the money.
- Unless property was a gift or inheritance, all property gotten during the marriage is community property, and both you and your spouse are entitled to a roughly equal share of this property.
- Community debts, likewise, belong to both people, regardless of who spent the money.
- If you have questions, or have a lot of community assets, you may want to consult an attorney regarding issues of community property and debts BEFORE filing your Response and other papers.
- It is very important that you be specific in your responses about the property and debt. Describe the property and debt that should go to or be paid by you in detail and describe the property and debt that should go to or be paid by your spouse in detail. Never list an item and check both Party A and Party B box.

Types of property include:

- a) Real estate (property or home). Most property also has a legal description such as "LOT 77, PINE TREE ACRES, according to Book 111 of Maps," etc. You should use this description, which will appear on your deed papers, if you have it, as well as the complete address of the property when listing the property in the Response. Cemetery plots are also considered real property.
- b) Household furniture. This includes sofas, beds, tables, etc.
- c) Household furnishings. This generally includes other things in the house other than furniture, e.g. dishes, small appliances, rugs, etc.
- d) Other items (explain). List the things that you specifically want to go to one person or another that have not already been listed.
- e) Pension/retirement fund/profit sharing/stock plan. You and your spouse each generally have a right to a one-half interest in any spouse's plan, ONLY for the number of years you were married. The longer you have been married, the greater your financial interest in a spouse's plan, up to 50 percent if you have been together the whole period of the plan. If you mark on the Response that you or your spouse has one of these plans, you should see an attorney about a document called a Qualified Domestic Relations Order or QDRO. A QDRO is a very specialized legal document that requires a professional's assistance to prepare. To find out what the actual cash value and present day value of the pension plan is, you may want to consult with an accountant experienced in valuing pension plans.

INFORMATION ABOUT SPOUSAL MAINTENANCE/SUPPORT:

- Spousal maintenance/support is the term used to describe money paid from one spouse to the other spouse as part of a Divorce or Legal Separation Agreement or Order. You may know the term as alimony.
- The money is designed as a safety net for a spouse who cannot provide for his or her needs or who meets other requirements listed.
- The idea behind spousal maintenance/support (alimony) is that accomplishments during your marriage, including increases in earning potential and living standards are shared and earned by BOTH parties to a marriage.

INFORMATION ABOUT CONCILIATION.

• The court has a service called Conciliation. Conciliation allows you to meet with trained professionals to resolve the issues of your marriage or the issues in dispute.

PROCEDURES: HOW TO FILE YOUR RESPONSE:

STEP 1: Complete the "Family Department Sensitive Data / Coversheet without Children"

and the "Response."

STEP 2: Make 2 copies of the "Response" only.

STEP 3: Separate your documents into three (3) sets:

SET 1 - Originals:	SET 2 - Your copies:	SET 3 – Your spouse's
"Family Department Sensitive Dat / Coversheet without Children"	**Response"	copies: • "Response"
"Response"		Response

STEP 4: File the papers at the Court:

Go to the Clerk of Superior Court filing counter. The court is open from 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. You should go to the court at least two hours before it closes. You may file your court papers with the Clerk of Superior Court at the following locations:

Yuma County Superior Court 250 W 2nd Street Yuma, AZ 85364

FEES: A list of current fees is available from the Law Library Resource Center and from the Clerk of Superior Court's website.

If this is the first time one of the parties or his or her attorney has "appeared", that is, filed papers in this case, an "appearance fee" (also known as a "response" or "answer" fee) will be due from that party at the time of filing. If you cannot afford the filing fee and/or the fee for having the papers served by the Sheriff or by publication, you may request a deferral (payment plan) when you file your papers with the Clerk of Superior Court. Deferral Applications are available at no charge from the Law Library Resource Center.

PAPERS: Hand all three (3) sets of your court papers to the Clerk of Superior Court along with along with the correct filing fee.

Make sure you get back the following from the Clerk:

Your set of copies

STEP 5: SEND PAPERS TO YOUR SPOUSE: Mail or hand-deliver the other copy of your Response to the other party (or the party's attorney, if he/she is represented by an attorney. If the person is represented by an attorney, the attorney's name and address may be found on the Petition in the upper left hand corner.)

Keep one copy of your Response for yourself.

STEP 6: What will happen next? You will receive notice to attend either a hearing or a conference.

Law Library Resource Center

How to complete a Spousal Maintenance Worksheet (Applies only to cases in which the original petition for dissolution or legal separation was filed on or after September 24, 2022)

In a dissolution of marriage (divorce) or legal separation, one party may request that the court order the other party to pay "spousal maintenance." This is financial support paid by one party to the other party. The court considers certain statutory factors to decide whether a party is eligible for spousal maintenance. In these cases, either party may request that the other pay spousal maintenance.

Spousal Maintenance Guidelines:

For a case filed on or after September 24, 2022, if a person is eligible for spousal maintenance, then the court uses the Arizona Spousal Maintenance Guidelines to determine the <u>amount</u> and <u>duration</u> of the award for spousal maintenance.

The Guidelines can be found here:

https://www.azcourts.gov/familylaw/Child-Support-Family-Law-Information/Spousal-Maintenance-Guidelines.

Spousal Maintenance Calculator:

In any dissolution of marriage or legal separation case that was originally filed on or after September 24, 2022, when a party requests spousal maintenance, or requests to change a past spousal maintenance court order, it is recommended that the requesting party file a completed Spousal Maintenance Worksheet. The worksheet is created using the FREE online Spousal Maintenance Calculator. Access to the internet is required.

The online Spousal Maintenance Calculator can be found here: https://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/app/selfsuffcalc/.

If you do not have access to the internet and/or a printer, you may use the computers at any Law Library Resource Center location. There is a small, per-page charge for printing.

Next Steps:

After completing the Spousal Maintenance Calculator, print out the Spousal Maintenance Worksheet in order to file it with your other paperwork.

When you have completed all necessary forms, go to the "Procedures" page and follow the steps.

Helpful Information: How to file a response to a petition for legal separation without minor children

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

- Domestic violence can be part of any marriage. Domestic violence can include physical violence, such as hitting, slapping, pushing or kicking directed against you and/or your children, and threats of physical violence made against you and/or your children, and/or regular verbal abuse used to control you and/or your children.
- All court documents request your address and phone number. If you are a victim of domestic violence and the other party does not know your address, you must file a "Request for Protected Address" and ask that your address not be disclosed on court papers. With that order, you do not need to put your address and phone number on your court papers. Then, write "protected" where asked for this information and update the Clerk of Superior Court with an address and phone number as soon as possible. The Clerk of Superior Court will keep your address confidential.

PAPERS YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED WITH THE PETITION FOR LEGAL SEPARATION:

SUMMONS: You have been summoned to appear in court. The Summons tells you how many calendar days you have to file a Response, depending on how you were served with the court papers. Be sure to file a WRITTEN RESPONSE on time. If the time for you to file a WRITTEN RESPONSE has passed, your spouse must complete an "Application and Affidavit for Entry of Default" and send you a copy of that document. You will have 10 more days in which to file your "Written Response". If you do not file a WRITTEN RESPONSE ON TIME, a default judgment can be entered. That means, you will not get to tell the judge your side of the story.

PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION: This is an order from the court to both spouses about what you CAN and CANNOT do with property, minor children, and other issues while the legal separation is pending. If you or your spouse do not obey this order, the party who disobeys it can be in serious trouble with the court. If your spouse disobeys the order, see a lawyer for help on what to do. The Law Library Resource Center has a list of lawyers who will help you help yourself, and this list tells how much they charge to help you.

INFORMATION FOR CONCILIATION COURT: You may or may not have received a paper on this. There is no requirement that your spouse serve this document on you. In either case, the court has services to help couples with their marriage, called "Conciliation" and "Mediation". You can ask for an appointment by filing a written Petition, to discuss your marriage with these court professionals. You can get the forms for the appointment at the Law Library Resource Center.

PETITION FOR LEGAL SEPARATION WITHOUT CHILDREN: This is the form your spouse completed to tell the court his or her side of the story about the marriage. Read each and every word very carefully, and decide what you want to do. Here are your choices:

- 1. Do nothing. This means your spouse can get a legal separation and tell the judge his or her side of the story, without you telling your side at all. This is called a "default." Even in these cases, the judge will try to decide what is best, but it is never a good idea to ignore the court proceeding and have a court order that you had no input on. You should see a lawyer before you decide to do nothing.
- 2. Decide with your spouse how you want to handle everything: property, debt, spousal maintenance (alimony), and everything else about the marriage. Then you and your spouse file papers in the court stating your agreement on everything. This is called a "consent or stipulation." This is often the best way to proceed, if you and your spouse desire to live separate and apart, and can talk about the critical issues to decide how you both want to handle the legal separation. Mediators can help you with this. The Law Library Resource Center has a list of mediators, and how much they charge to you.
- 3. File a Response stating your side of the story, and how you want to handle all of the issues. This will make your case a "contested matter." But, even if you originally file a Response, you and your spouse can still decide to agree on something, or everything, and file court papers for a "consent or stipulation." Mediators can help you with this, and the Law Library Resource Center has a list of mediators, and how much they charge to help you.

HOW TO CALCULATE the LAST DAY to FILE YOUR RESPONSE:

- It is better to prepare and file the Response before the LAST DAY to FILE your Response. The LAST DAY to FILE RESPONSE may be calculated using the timetable below. It is helpful to use a calendar when calculating the last day to file.
- USE TIMETABLE BELOW. If the last day to file your response falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, you DO NOT count that day.
- INCLUDE WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS IN YOUR COUNT until you reach the number of days under the "COUNT" column in the Time - Table below. If you file a written response with the court on time, the Petitioner CANNOT PROCEED BY DEFAULT.

	DEFAUL	T TIME TABLE
If you were served the Petition by th	is	
METHOD OF SERVICE	COUNT	EVENT
Acceptance of Service in Arizona	20 Days	after the "Acceptance of Service" is filed
Acceptance of Service out-of-state	30 Days	after the "Acceptance of Service" is filed
Process Server in Arizona	20 Days	after YOU received papers from Process Server
Process Service out-of-state	30 Days	after YOU received papers from Process Server
Sheriff in Arizona	20 Days	after YOU received papers from the Sheriff
Sheriff out-of-state	30 Days	after YOU received papers from the Sheriff
Certified Mail in Arizona	20 Days	after YOU signed for the papers
Certified Mail out-of-state	30 Days	after YOU signed for the papers
Publication in Arizona	50 Days	after the 1st date of publication
Publication out-of-state	60 Days	after the 1 st date of publication

Person Filing:		
Address (if not protected):		
City, State, Zip Code:		
Telephone:		
Email Address:		
ATLAS Number:		
Lawyer's Bar Number:		FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY
Representing $\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \$	or Attorney for Petitioner	OR Respondent
SUPE	RIOR COURT OF ARI	IZONA
	Case No.	
Petitioner / Party A	ATLAS No.	
Respondent / Party B	COVERS	PARTMENT SENSITIVE DATA HEET WITHOUT CHILDREN CONFIDENTIAL RECORD)
Fill out. File with Clerk of Superior (and should be omitted from other of		
A. Personal Information:	Petitioner / Party A	Respondent / Party B
Name		
Gender	Male or Female	Male or Female
Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year)		
Social Security Number		
	OT INCLUDE MAILING ADDRES	
Mailing Address	<u></u>	
City, State, Zip Code		
Contact Phone		
Receive texts from Court to	Yes No texts	Yes No texts
contact phone number above?		
Email Address Current Employer Name		
Employer Address		
Employer City, State, Zip Code		
Employer Telephone Number		
Employer Fax Number		
B. Type of Case being filed - Mar	k only one category. (*) Mark this	box only if no other case type applies
Dissolution (Divorce)	Annulment	Other*
Legal Separation	Order Protection	
C. Do you need interpreter?	No Yes If Yes,	What language?

DO NOT COPY THIS DOCUMENT. DO NOT SERVE THIS DOCUMENT TO THE OTHER PARTY.

Persor	son Filing:	
Addres	ress (if not protected):	
	, State, Zip Code:	
Email /	phone: iil Address:	
ATLAS	AS Number:	
Lawye	yer's Bar Number: FOR CLERK'S USE	ONLY
Repres	resenting Self, without a Lawyer or Attorney for Petitioner OR Respondent	
	SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA IN YUMA COUNTY	
	Case Number:	
Name	ne of Petitioner / Party A RESPONSE to PETITION FOR	
	LEGAL SEPARATION WITHOUT MINOR CHILDREN	
Name	ne of Respondent / Party B	
STA	ATEMENTS MADE TO THE COURT, UNDER OATH:	
GENI	NERAL INFORMATION	
1.	ABOUT MY SPOUSE	
	Name:	
	Address:	
	Date of Birth:	
	Occupation:	
	Starting with today, number of months/years in a row, my spouse has lived in Arizona:	
2.	ABOUT ME	
	Name:	
	Address:	
	Date of Birth:	
	Occupation:	
	Starting with today, number of months/years in a row. I have lived in Arizona:	

Case No.		
•	•	

3.	ABO	OUT OUR MARRIAGE			
	Date	of Marriage:			
	City a	and state or country where we were married:			
4.	ABO	OUT THE LEGAL SEPARATION			
		I want to be legally separated from my spouse, C I do not want to be legally separated from my sp be divorced.		y marriage is	over and I want to
INFO	RMAT	TION ABOUT PROPERTY AND DEBTS			
you a	and ther se, and	You must be specific. You must describe the propen check the box. You must then describe the propen check the box. For example, under household furnion check the box to say whether it should go to you both the Party A and the P	rty and debt that shings you could or to your spouse	should go to o	or be paid by your d white living room
5.a.	COM	MMUNITY PROPERTY: (check one box)			
		My spouse and I did not acquire any community	property during tl	ne marriage, (OR
		My spouse and I acquired community property follows:	during our marri	age, and we	should divide it as
	Desc	ription of property	Party A	Party B	Value
		Real estate at:			\$
		Real estate at:			\$
		Household furniture and appliances:			\$
			_ 🗆		\$ \$

		Party A	Value Party B	
	Household furnishings:			\$
				Φ \$
				\$
				\$
	•			\$
	Other items:			
	- Carlot Romo.			\$
				\$
				\$
DESC	RIPTION OF PROPERTY			
	Pension/retirement fund/profit sharing/stock plan/40	1K:		
				\$
		Ш		\$
Ш	Motor vehicles: Make:			\$
	Model:			Ψ
	VIN Number:			
	Lien Holder:			
	Make:		П	\$
	Make: Model:			Ψ
	VIN Number:			
	Lien Holder:			
SEP	ARATE PROPERTY. (Check all boxes that	apply.)		
	I do not have any property that I brought into the ma	rriage or sepai	rate property.	
	My spouse does not have any property that he of	r cho brought	into the man	riago or conarato
Ш	property.	i she brought	into the man	lage of separate
П	I have property that I brought into the marriage or I	have separate	e property. I v	vant this property
	awarded to me as described it below.		1 -1 7	
	My spouse has property that he or she brought into this property awarded to my spouse as described be		r has separate	e property. I want
	Separate Property: (List the property and the value Court who should get the property.)	of the propert	y, and check	the box to tell the

5.b.

		Description of Property	Party A	Party B	Value
					\$ \$ \$
6.a.	COM	MUNITY DEBTS: (check one box)			
		My spouse and I did not incur any community debts	during the ma	arriage, OR	
		We should divide the responsibility for the debts inc	urred during t	he marriage as	follows:
		Description of debt	Party A	Party B	Amount
					\$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$
6.b.	SEP	ARATE DEBTS. (Check all boxes that app	oly.)		
		My spouse and I do not have any debts that were in OR	ncurred prior to	the marriage	or separate debt,
		I have separate debt or debt that I incurred prior to described below:	the marriage t	hat should be լ	oaid by me as
		My spouse has separate debt or debt that he or she paid by my spouse as described below:	e incurred prio	r to the marriaç	ge that should be
		Description of debt	Party A	Party B	Amount
					\$ \$ \$
7.	TAX	RETURNS: (Check this box if this is what	you want).		
		After the Judge or Commissioner signs the Decree subject to IRS Rules and Regulations, pay federal year (the year that the Decree is signed) and all full IRS Rules and Regulations, file separate federal and the other party all necessary documentation to do s	and state tax ture calendar d state income	es as follows: years, each pa	For the calendar arty will, subject to

		For previous years (the years we were married, not including the year the Decree was signed), (check one box)
		The parties will file joint federal and state income tax returns. For previous calendar years, both parties will pay, and hold the other harmless from, 1/2 of all additional income taxes if any and other costs and each will share equally in any refunds. <i>OR</i>
		The parties will file separate federal and state income tax returns. For previous calendar years, each party will pay and hold the other harmless from any income taxes and/or incurred as a result of the filing of that party's tax return and each party will be awarded 100% of any refund received as a result of the filing of that party's tax return.
8.	SPOU	SAL MAINTENANCE (ALIMONY) (check the box that applies to you):
		Neither party is entitled to Spousal Maintenance/support (alimony), OR
		Party A OR Party B is entitled to Spousal Maintenance/support because: (Check one or more of the box(es) below that apply. At least one reason must apply to get spousal maintenance/support.)
		Person lacks sufficient property to provide for his or her reasonable needs;
		Person is unable to support himself/herself through appropriate employment;
		Person lacks earning ability in the labor market adequate to support himself or herself;
		Person made a significant financial or other contribution to the education, training, vocational skills, career, or earning ability of the other spouse;
		Person had a marriage of long duration, and is now of an age that precludes the possibility of gaining employment adequate to be self-sufficient; and/or
		Person has significantly reduced that spouse's income or career opportunities for the benefit of the other spouse.
9.	PREG	NANCY (Mark the box if it is true)
		Party A <u>IS NOT</u> pregnant, OR Party B <u>IS NOT</u> pregnant, OR
		Party A <u>IS</u> pregnant OR Party B <u>IS</u> pregnant
		The baby is due on (date), (and, check one box below):

Case No.

		Case No		
		Party A and Party B ARE the parents of the child, OR		
		Party A or Party B IS NOT the parent of the child, OR		
ASKED FO		MARY OF WHAT I ASKED FOR THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM WHAT MY SPOUSE D FOR IN THE PETITION: (Here summarize what is different between you want and what ouse asked for.)		
11.	CONC	CILIATION.		
		e or False. (Check one box.) The conciliation requirements under Arizona law either do not apply been met. (This must be a true statement or you cannot file for Legal Separation.)		
12.	WRITTEN AGREEMENT. CHECK ONLY IF TRUE:			
		Party A and Party B have a written agreement signed by both of us about the maintenance of a spouse, division of property/debt, where the children will live, authority for legal decision-making concerning the children (legal custody), parenting time, and child support, and I have attached a copy of the written agreement.		
		Party A and Party B DO NOT have a written agreement signed by both of us about the maintenance of a spouse, division of property/debt, where the children will live, authority for legal decision-making concerning the children (legal custody), parenting time, and child support.		
13.	GENERAL DENIAL: I deny anything stated in the Petition that I have not specifically admitted qualified, or denied.			
REQ	UEST	S TO THE COURT:		
A.	LEGALLY SEPARATE OR CHANGE TO DIVORCE:			
	☐ Legally separate the parties, OR			
		nge this case to a divorce case because my marriage is over and either I or my spouse has lived in zona for the last 90 days.		
В.	SPOU	SAL MAINTENANCE/SUPPORT (ALIMONY):		
	☐ Not	applicable.		

Case No
Order spousal maintenance/support to be paid by:
Party A, or Party B through the Clerk of Superior Court/Clearinghouse in the amount of \$ per month, and the statutory fee, beginning with the first day of the month after the judge or commissioner signs the Decree of Legal Separation and continuing until the person receiving the spousal maintenance/support is deceased, or formonths.
COMMUNITY PROPERTY:
☐ Make a fair division of all community property as requested in this Response.
COMMUNITY DEBTS:
☐ Order each party to pay community debts as requested in this Response, and to pay any othe community debts unknown to the other party. Order each party to pay and hold the other party harmless from debts incurred by him or her since the parties' separation on (date):
SEPARATE PROPERTY AND DEBT:
Award each party his/her separate property and debt.
OTHER ORDERS I AM REQUESTING (Explain request here):

UNDER OATH OR AFFIRMATION

I swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that the contents of this document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date	Signature
STATE OF	
COUNTY OF	
Subscribed and sworn to or affirmed before me this:	(date)
Ву	
(Notary seal)	Deputy Clerk or Notary Public
Copy of the foregoing mailed to he other party or his or her attorney on at	
The following address:	
	-
	-