DIVORCE WITHOUT MINOR CHILDREN

RESPONSE

Part 3: Respond to a Divorce Petition

(Instructions and Forms)

RESPONSE TO PETITION AND PAPERS FOR DIVORCE -- 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 divorce for a non-covenant marriage. (If you have a covenant marriage or aren't sure if you have a covenant marriage, see a lawyer for help), AND
- You and your spouse have **no minor** children with each other.

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.

Dissolution of a non-covenant marriage (divorce) without minor children

Part 3 - Response to a Petition

This packet contains court forms and instructions to file dissolution of a non-covenant marriage without minor children. Items in **bold** are forms that you will need to file with the Court.

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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: How to respond to divorce papers

Domestic Violence: Domestic violence can be part of any marriage. Domestic violence includes physical violence, such as hitting, slapping, pushing or kicking, and threats of violence and/or verbal abuse directed against you and/or your children.

Court documents request your address and phone number. If you are a victim of domestic violence, and you do not want your address to be known to protect yourself or your children from further violence, 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 divorce papers; just write protected in the space where the Court asks you for this information. You must tell the Clerk of Superior Court your address and phone number as soon as possible.

Information about papers you should have received from your spouse with the petition for dissolution:

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. You will have 10 more court days from the date the application was filed with the Clerk of Superior Court in which to file your written response. If you do not file a written response on time, a default decree can be entered, which 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 and other issues while the divorce is pending. If you or your spouse violate this order, the party who violates it can be in serious trouble with the court. If your spouse violates 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.

Notice of Right to Convert Health Insurance: This is an important document that explains what to do about health care coverage for yourself. Read it carefully.

Information for Conciliation Court: You may or may not have received a paper on this. Your spouse is not required to send you this document. In either case, the court has Conciliation and Mediation services available to couples to help them preserve their marriage. You can ask for an appointment to discuss your marriage with these professionals by filing a written Petition. You can get the forms for the appointment at the Law Library Resource Center.

Petition for Dissolution of a Non-Covenant Marriage Without Minor Children: This is the form your spouse completed to tell the court his/her side of the story about property, debt, spousal maintenance/support (alimony), minor children, pregnancy, and everything else about the marriage. Read every word very carefully and decide what you want to do. Here are your choices:

- Do nothing. This means your spouse can get a divorce 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 for help before you decide to do nothing.
- Consent. Decide with your spouse how you want to handle everything: property, debt, spousal maintenance/support (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 believe the marriage is over, and you can talk about how you both want to handle the divorce. Mediators can help you with this. The Law Library Resource Center has a list of mediators, and how much they charge to help you.
- Disagree. File a Response stating your side of the story, and how you want to handle everything: property, debt, spousal maintenance/support (alimony), and everything else about the marriage. 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. If you file a Response and do not settle everything with your spouse, you must be sure to file the court papers you will need to set the case for trial.

No matter how you proceed, you can still get help from Conciliation Court, for either conciliation or mediation. You can ask for an appointment to discuss your marriage with these professionals, by filing a written Petition. The forms for an appointment are available at the Law Library Resource Center.

When must you file your response? If you decide to file the response, you have a limited time to file it. A calendar is helpful for you to find the last day you may respond.

• Look at the timetable below. On a calendar, begin counting on the day after the date of the event. End your calendar count using the number of days to respond. The calendar day you end on will be the date, which is your last day to respond. If the last day to respond falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, you do not count that day. You last day to respond would be the next day. Include weekends and holidays in your count.

Timetable:	Time to	Respond
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Count	Event
20 Days	after the Acceptance of Service is filed
30 Days	after the Acceptance of Service is filed
20 Days	after you signed the delivery
	confirmation
30 Days	after you signed the delivery
	confirmation
20 Days	after you received papers from Server
30 Days	after you received papers from Server
20 Days	after you received papers from Sheriff
30 Days	after you received papers from Sheriff
50 Days	after the 1st date of publication
60 Days	after the 1st date of publication
	20 Days 30 Days 20 Days 30 Days 20 Days 30 Days 30 Days 30 Days 50 Days

Completing your response to the petition:

- A. Make sure your form is titled Response to Petition for Dissolution of a Non-Covenant Marriage Without Minor Children.
- B. 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; and leave the ATLAS number blank; Attorney Bar Number if you are represented by an attorney; then check the box to tell the court whether you represent yourself or are represented by an attorney.
- C. Fill in the name of Petitioner/Party A and Respondent/Party B the same way as it looks on the Petition. Do that for every document you ever file with the court regarding this case from now on.
- D. Use the case number stamped in the upper right-hand corner of the Petition. Do that for all documents you ever file with the court regarding this case from now on.
- E. Covenant Marriage. If you disagree with the type of marriage your spouse says you had, attach a copy of your marriage license to the Response.
- F. 90-Day Requirement. You OR your spouse has lived in Arizona, or been stationed here while in

the Armed Forces, for at least 90 (ninety) days before the Petition for Dissolution was filed. Before you file a Divorce, this must be true. If it is not true, the Petition was filed too soon, and the case must be dismissed until the 90 days passes. You or your spouse can file a motion to dismiss.

G. Property and Debts: The information you give in paragraphs 5 and 6 tells the court about your property and debts and how you think property and debts should be divided. Community property is generally any property you and your spouse purchased during your marriage or that was paid for during the marriage, no matter who uses the property or who actually paid the money. Unless property was a gift or inheritance, all property gotten during the marriage up until the day Party B is served with the Petition for Dissolution is community property, and both you and your spouse are entitled to a roughly equal share of this property. Community debts are debts acquired during the marriage, and likewise, belong to both spouses, no matter 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/or any other papers.

Description of types of property:

- a. Real estate (property or home) You can ask the Court to give you the home, to give it to your spouse, or to sell the home and divide the proceeds. You should write the complete address of the property under Real estate located at. 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. 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. Pension/retirement fund/profit sharing/stock plan You and your spouse each generally have a right to an interest in each other'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 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.

H. Spousal Maintenance/Support (Alimony). Spousal maintenance/support is the term used to describe money paid from one spouse to the other as part of a Divorce 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/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 the marriage.
Wait to sign this form until you are in front of a notary or the Clerk of Superior Court at the filing counter.
What to do next: See the Law Library Resource Center document in this packet titled: Procedures: How to file a response.

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, a completed Spousal Maintenance Worksheet *must* be included under the following situations.

- When filing an Application for Entry of a Default Decree and the party seeking default proceeds by motion without a hearing (Rule 44.1, ARFLP)
- When the parties agree to spousal maintenance and are submitting either a Summary Consent Decree or Consent Decree for Court approval (Rules 45 and 45.1, ARFLP).

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.

Procedures: How to file a Response to a Petition for divorce with no minor children

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:

• Family Department Sensitive
Data / Coversheet without
Children

• Response

Set 3 - your copies:
• 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 to 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:

Clerk of Superior Court 250 West Second Street Yuma, Arizona 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.

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

Your spouse's copies

STEP 5: Keep one copy of your Response for yourself, and mail or hand-deliver the other copy of your Response to the other person (or the person'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.)

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

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 $\ \ \square$ Self, without a Lawyer	or Attorney for Petition	ner OR 🗌 Respondent
SUPE	RIOR COURT OF A	RIZONA
	IN YUMA COUNT	Y
D. W. A.	Case No.	
Petitioner / Party A	ATLAS No.	
Respondent / Party B	FAMILY	DEPARTMENT SENSITIVE DATA
	COVE	RSHEET 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 ADD	
Mailing Address	40-01111071-0011110	
City, State, Zip Code		
Contact Phone		
Receive texts from Court to		
contact phone number above?	Yes No texts	Yes No texts
Email Address		<u> </u>
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?		What language?
o. Do you need interpreter?	_ No Yes If Yes	, wilat laliyuaye :

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

Perso	on Filing:
Addr	ess (if not protected):
City,	State, Zip Code:
Telep	phone:
Emai	l Address:
ATL	AS Number: For Clerk's Use Only
Lawy	ver's Bar Number:
Repr	esenting Self, without a Lawyer OR Attorney for Petitioner OR Respondent
	SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA IN YUMA COUNTY
	Case Number:
Nam	RESPONSE TO PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE- (DIVORCE) WITHOUT MINOR CHILDREN
Nam	e of Respondent/Party B
STA	ΓΕΜΕΝΤS MADE TO THE COURT, UNDER OATH:
1.	INFORMATION ABOUT MY SPOUSE:
	Name:
	Address:
	Date of Birth:
	Job Title:
	Starting with today, number of months/years in a row my spouse, has lived in Arizona:
2.	INFORMATION ABOUT ME:
	Name:
	Address:
	Date of Birth:
	Job Title:
	Starting with today, number of months/years in a row I have lived in Arizona:

		Cas	e No				
3.	INFORMATION ABOUT MY MARR	IAGE: (Chec	ck the boxes th	nat apply.)			
	Date of Marriage:	Date of Marriage:					
	City and state or country where we wer	e married:					
	☐ We do not have or ☐ We do have your spouse said regarding the type of your marriage license to show what kin	marriage yo	u have, you sl	· ·			
4.	90 DAY REQUIREMENT: (Check the	boxes that a	pply.)				
	☐ I or ☐ my spouse have lived, or hat Forces, in Arizona for at least 90 days spouse have not lived, or have not been in Arizona for at least 90 days before the	s before this stationed w	action was fi hile a member	led or \square I or \square my			
5.a.	COMMUNITY PROPERTY: (Check o	ne box.)					
	My spouse and I did not acquire any	community	property duri	ng the marriage, OR			
	My spouse and I acquired communidivide it as follows:	ity property	during our ma	arriage, and we should			
	Real estate located at:	Party A	Party B	Value \$			
	Legal Description:						
	-						
	Real estate located at:	Party A	Party B	Value			
	Legal Description:			Ψ			
	zegar z comprion						
	Household furniture and appliances:	Party A	Party B	Value			
				\$			
				\$			
				\$			
				\$			
				\$			
				\$			

	Cas	e No	
Household furnishings:	Party A	Party B	Value
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
Other items:	Party A	Party B	Value
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
Pension/retirement fund/profit shari	ng/stock plan	n/401K:	
	Party A	Party B	Value
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
Motor vehicles:	Party A	Party B	Value
Make			\$
Model	_		
VIN			
Lien Holder			
Make			\$
Model			
VIN			
Lien Holder			
SEPARATE PROPERTY: (Check all b	oxes that app	oly.)	
I do not have any property that I			or separate property.

5.b.

		My spouse does not have any proseparate property.	perty t	hat he or s	she brought	into the marriage or
		I have property that I brought into this property awarded to me as de		_	I have separ	rate property. I want
		My spouse has property that he opposety. I want this property aw				
		Separate Property: (List the property box to tell the Court who should	•			perty, and check the
		DESCRIPTION OF SEPARATE	PROP	ERTY		
				Party A	Party B	Value \$
						\$
						\$
			<u></u>			\$
6.a.	COM	MUNITY DEBTS: (Check one bo	x)			
0.4.		My spouse and I did not incur an	,	nunity del	ots during th	ne marriage. OR
		We should divide the responsibil follows:	-			_
		DESCRIPTION OF DEBT	Party	A P	arty B	Amount Owed
					\$	
						
						
						
6.b.	SEPA	RATE DEBTS: (Check all boxes	that ap	ply.)		
		My spouse and I do not have any separate debt,	debts t	hat were i	ncurred prior	or to the marriage or
		OR				
		I have separate debt or debt that paid by me as described below.	I incu	rred prior	to the mar	riage that should be
		My spouse has separate debt or de that should be paid by my spouse				prior to the marriage

Case No.

		DESCRIPTION OF DEBT	Party A	Party B	Amount Owed
				□ \$_ □ \$_ □ \$_	
FRC	M WH	Y OF WHAT I ASK FOR ON PICAT MY SPOUSE ASKED FOR tween your plan for division of pro	R IN THE P	ETITION: (H	Here summarize what is
7.	TAX	RETURNS: (Check the box if it i	s what you w	vant).	_
		After the Judge or Commission (Divorce), we will, subject to IRs as follows: For the calendar year calendar years, each party will, federal and state income tax is necessary documentation to do so	S Rules and Four (the year the subject to IR returns. Each	Regulations, part the Decree S Rules and R	ay federal and state taxes is signed) and all future Regulations, file separate
		For previous years (the years w was signed), (check one box)	e were marri	ied, not includ	ling the year the Decree
		The parties will file joint calendar years, both parties of all additional income equally in any refunds. O	ies will pay, taxes if any	and hold the o	other harmless from, 1/2
		The parties will file sep previous calendar years, e any income taxes and/or return and each party will of the filing of that party'	each party will incurred as a be awarded	ll pay and hold result of the	the other harmless from filing of that party's tax
8.	SPOU you.)	USAL MAINTENANCE/SUPPO	RT (ALIMO	NY): (Check	the box that applies to
		Neither party is entitled to spous	sal maintenar	nce/support (al	limony), OR
		Party A OR Party B is entitle one or more of the box(es) below spousal support.)	•		• •
		Party A, OR Party B			

Case No.

			Lacks sufficient property, includir spouse, to provide for that spouse's	
			Lacks earning ability in the labor m sufficient.	narket that is adequate to be self-
			Is the parent of a child whose age or should not be required to seek employer.	-
			Has made a significant financial education, training, vocational skills other spouse or has significantly recareer opportunities for the benefit of	s, career, or earning ability of the educed that spouse's income or
			Had a marriage of long duration and the possibility of gaining employme	
THA (Sum	T IS I nmarize	DIFFERENT F	I WANT REGARDING SPOUSAL ROM WHAT MY SPOUSE ASK. fferent from your plan for spousal maition.)	ED FOR IN THE PETITION:
9.	PREC		ark the box to show whether either par	rty is currently pregnant, etc.)
			or is not pregnant, OR	
			or is not pregnant,	
		If either party box below):	is pregnant, the baby is due on	(date), (and, check one
		Party A	A and Party B are the parents of the c	hild, OR
		Party A	A or Party B is not a parent of the	child.
10.	OTH	ER STATEME	NTS TO THE COURT UNDER OAT	TH: (Check the boxes that apply.)
			e is irretrievably broken and there i. (My marriage is over.)	is no reasonable prospect of
			is not irretrievably broken and the . (My marriage is not over.)	ere is a reasonable prospect of
			nd I have attempted to resolve our oing to Conciliation Services to try to	
			nd I have not tried to resolve our going to Conciliation Services to try	

Case No.

	Case No.			
11.	WRI	TTEN 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, 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, parenting time, and child support.		
12.		NERAL DENIAL: I deny anything stated in the Petition that I have not specifically itted, qualified, or denied.		
REQ	UESTS	S TO THE COURT:		
A.	DISS	SOLUTION (DIVORCE):		
		Dissolve our marriage and return each party to the status of a single person; OR		
		Deny the petition and refuse to dissolve the marriage due to my answers above.		
В.	NAM	MES: (Optional. Complete ONLY if you want your name restored to a former name)		
		complete married name is:		
	I war	nt my legal name restored to: (List complete maiden name or legal name before this iage)		
C.	SPO	USAL MAINTENANCE/SUPPORT (ALIMONY):		
		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 Dissolution and continuing until the person receiving spousal maintenance/support is remarried or deceased, or for a period ofmonths.		
D.	COM	MUNITY PROPERTY:		
		Make a fair division of all community property as requested in this Response.		

	Case No.			
E.	COMMUNITY DEBTS:			
		Order each party to pay community debts as requested in the Response, and to pay any other 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 party's separation on (date): or the date Party B was served with the Petition for Dissolution.		
F.	SEPARATE PROPERTY and SEPARATE DEBT:			
	Award each party his or her separate property and order each party to pay his or he separate debt.			
G.	OTHER ORDERS I AM REQUESTING: (Explain request here.)			
The c	ontent	AFFIRMATION s of this document are true and correct to		e and belief.
Signature			Date	
STAT	E OF			
COU	NTY (OF		
Subscribed and sworn to or affirmed before		and sworn to or affirmed before me this:	(date)	by
(Nota			Notarial Officer	
Сору	of this	s document mailed to the other party on:	Month/Date/Year	
To the	e follo	wing address:		