

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT  
DECREE OF DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (WITH CHILD(REN))**

**HEADING**

- Enter the name of the county where you filed the complaint.
- Enter your first, middle, and last names. You are plaintiff.
- Enter your spouse's first, middle, and last names. Your spouse is defendant.
- The clerk of the district court will give you a case number when you file the complaint. You must include the case number on any papers you file.

**BODY OF DECREE**

In the first paragraph enter the date of your final court hearing. This paragraph does not have a number.

The numbers below give instructions for completing the paragraphs with the same numbers on the decree.

- Paragraph 1. Enter the name of the county where the divorce was filed. Either you or your spouse must have been a resident of this county at the time the divorce was filed.
- Paragraph 4. Enter the date you were married and the city and state where you were married. Enter the number of children born to you and your spouse, then enter each child's complete name and the year each child was born. In the last sentence, if the wife is the plaintiff enter "Plaintiff," if the wife is the defendant enter "Defendant."
- Paragraph 5. If you and your spouse have developed a parenting plan, check the first blank. If you have developed a parenting plan by yourself, check the second blank. If you want the court to develop a parenting plan, check the third blank. Enter either Plaintiff or Defendant in the fourth blank. If you will be paying child support, enter "Plaintiff." If your spouse will be paying child support, enter "Defendant."
- Paragraph 9. If you are requesting that your former name be restored, enter "Plaintiff" on the first blank and enter the complete former name to be restored including first, middle, and last names on the second blank. If defendant is requesting that defendant's former name be restored, enter "Defendant" on the first blank and enter the complete former name to be restored including first, middle, and last names on the second blank. If you are not requesting that your former name be restored to you or if defendant is not requesting that his or her former name be restored, cross out this paragraph.
- Paragraph 11. Check the first box if you are requesting either your spouse or you have sole legal and sole physical custody. If you are requesting sole legal and sole physical custody, enter "Plaintiff." If you are requesting your spouse have sole legal and sole physical custody, enter "Defendant."

Check the second box if you are requesting that you and your spouse have joint legal custody and either you or your spouse will have sole physical custody. Enter "plaintiff" if you are requesting sole physical custody. Enter "defendant" if you are requesting your spouse have sole physical custody.

Check the third box if you are requesting that you and your spouse be awarded joint legal and joint physical custody.

Paragraph 12. If you and your spouse have developed a parenting plan, check the first blank. If you have developed a parenting plan by yourself, check the second blank. If you want the court to develop a parenting plan, check the third blank.

Paragraph 13. Enter either Plaintiff or Defendant. This will be the party who is not receiving custody and who will be paying child support. The judge will complete the blank indicating the date child support will begin. During visitation or parenting time periods of 28 days or more, in any 90-day period, support payments may be reduced by up to 80%. If you do not agree on a percentage for the abatement, the judge will complete this subsection.

If you are able to do a child support calculation based upon the Child Support Guidelines, you can complete the amount of child support to be paid per month for the appropriate number of children. The child support worksheet must be presented to the judge at the time of the hearing.

**You must complete the "Financial Affidavit for Child Support" and give it to the judge at the time of the final hearing.**

Paragraph 14. Enter the party (Plaintiff or Defendant) who will be providing health insurance for the child(ren) in the first blank.

You will not need to complete the remainder of this paragraph. The judge will do that.

Paragraph 15. You will not need to complete this paragraph. The judge will do that.

Paragraph 21. If you are requesting that your former name be restored or defendant is requesting that defendant's former name be restored, enter the complete former name to be restored including first, middle, and last names. If you are not requesting that your former name be restored to you or defendant is not requesting that defendant's former name be restored, cross out this paragraph.

Paragraph 24. You will not need to fill in the blank for the interest rate. The judge will do that.

## **FINAL SIGNATURE**

If the court approves the decree, the judge will date and sign the decree.

***The decree must be filed with the clerk of the court before the divorce can be finalized.***

You should check with the clerk's office after the final hearing to update or provide any information necessary, including information for child support and the vital statistics form.