

WAYS TO SERVE DEFENDANT WITH DIVORCE COMPLAINT

- 1 Acknowledgment:** The easiest way to serve NJ divorce papers is to have your spouse sign an Acknowledgement of Service. An Acknowledgement of Service is exactly what it sounds like – your spouse signs a document stating that he or she accepts the fact that the divorce papers have been served. If your ex signs the acknowledgment himself, without an attorney, it must be notarized. If your spouse has an attorney, he or she can sign the acknowledgment of service, and send it back. You or your attorney then file the acknowledgment of service.
- 2 Service by Mail:** If you expect that your spouse will represent himself/herself or hire an attorney to take part in the divorce proceedings, you can serve your divorce papers by regular and certified mail. This is a simple and cheap way to serve divorce papers. There is one downside to serving divorce papers by mail, however. If your spouse does not respond to service by mail within 60 days, you still must serve him/her by another method. The reason why is because you cannot ask the Court to enter a default judgment of divorce if you completed service by mail. Sometimes, the only that will compel a spouse to answer divorce papers is the threat of the Court entering a default judgment of divorce.
- 3 Service by the Sheriff:** Having a sheriff's officer in the county where your spouse lives is another way to serve your spouse – and is probably cheaper than other process-serving companies. Call the sheriff's office to find out how much it will cost to pay the fees and mileage. You must mail or give the sheriff's office the following:
 - a. A cover letter to the sheriff
 - b. Two copies of the Summons and Proof of Service
 - c. Two copies of your Complaint for Divorce
 - d. A check or money order for the service fee
 - e. A self-addressed stamped envelope so the sheriff can send you back proof that your spouse has been servedUnion County Sheriff:
Process Server phone # 908-527-4470
- 4 Hire Process Serving Company:** There are tons of companies who will serve your divorce papers for you. They essentially do the same thing as the sheriff's office, but charge you a lot more. Whatever company you use, make sure they are reputable and search for online reviews.