

State	How to Start Procedures	Special Requirements	Initial Court Appearance	Process After Mediation	Self-Represented Litigants	Free Legal Services	Court Rules	Family Law Forms	Account Setup
Arizona	<p><b>Custody</b></p> <p>Fill out and file the papers to begin the case</p> <p>Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Family Court Cover Sheet/Sensitive Data sheet</li> <li>The cover sheet (a separate one may not be required, depending on the county)</li> <li>The Summons to Respond Appear</li> <li>The Petition to Establish Paternity, Child Support, Child Custody (If Legal Decision-Making and Parenting Time)</li> <li>The Notice of Appearance</li> </ul> <p>Serve the other party</p> <p>Take a parenting class</p> <p>Wait to file a consent decree</p> <p>Wait for a response</p> <p>File for a default judgment</p> <p>Go to court</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://accourt.mh.es.gov/bvms-by-remote-mail-clamw/150-self-representation-resources/forms/family-children">https://accourt.mh.es.gov/bvms-by-remote-mail-clamw/150-self-representation-resources/forms/family-children</a></p> <p><b>Divorce</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.azcourts.gov/Parade/11/Forms/AR_CV101101.pdf">https://www.azcourts.gov/Parade/11/Forms/AR_CV101101.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.azcourts.gov/selfrepservices/Child-Support-Family-Law-Family-Law-Forms/Disqualification-of-Marriage-with-Children">https://www.azcourts.gov/selfrepservices/Child-Support-Family-Law-Family-Law-Forms/Disqualification-of-Marriage-with-Children</a></p>	<p>One party must be Arizona domiciliary and presence has been maintained 90 days prior to filing for divorce.</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://www.azcsp.gov/Arizona/revlonid/States.asp?Title=24">https://www.azcsp.gov/Arizona/revlonid/States.asp?Title=24</a></p>	<p>For divorce, the court papers on what you want the judge to order about legal decision-making and parenting time, and for child support should be prepared before time.</p> <p>Source: Instructions: How to Fill Out Papers for Dissolution of a Non-Covenant Marriage (Divorce) with Minor Children</p> <p><a href="https://www.azcourts.gov/selfrepservices/Child-Support-Family-Law-Family-Law-Forms/Disqualification-of-Marriage-with-Children">https://www.azcourts.gov/selfrepservices/Child-Support-Family-Law-Family-Law-Forms/Disqualification-of-Marriage-with-Children</a></p>	<p>Mediation is for parents who need help in writing a parenting plan for their minor Children. If you and the other parent cannot agree on how legal decisions will be made for your children or when the children will spend time with each of you, you will be required to attend mediation. Mediation is when you meet with a neutral third party, and it is a free service through the Conciliation Court. This can be done any time after the other parent has filed a "response."</p> <p>If mediation fails, the case goes back to court.</p>	<p><a href="https://accourt.mh.es.gov/bvms-by-remote-mail-clamw/150-self-representation-resources/forms/family-children">https://accourt.mh.es.gov/bvms-by-remote-mail-clamw/150-self-representation-resources/forms/family-children</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.azcourts.gov/selfrepservices/Child-Support-Family-Law-Family-Law-Forms/Disqualification-of-Marriage-with-Children">https://www.azcourts.gov/selfrepservices/Child-Support-Family-Law-Family-Law-Forms/Disqualification-of-Marriage-with-Children</a></p>	<p>Maricopa County only: <a href="https://cclsa.org/faq/">https://cclsa.org/faq/</a></p> <p>Arizona Legal Aid Resources (this site has a list of free legal services): <a href="https://www.azcourts.gov/selfrepservices/Child-Support-Family-Law-Family-Law-Forms/Disqualification-of-Marriage-with-Children">https://www.azcourts.gov/selfrepservices/Child-Support-Family-Law-Family-Law-Forms/Disqualification-of-Marriage-with-Children</a></p>	<p><a href="https://www.azcourts.gov/selfrepservices/Child-Support-Family-Law-Family-Law-Forms/Disqualification-of-Marriage-with-Children">https://www.azcourts.gov/selfrepservices/Child-Support-Family-Law-Family-Law-Forms/Disqualification-of-Marriage-with-Children</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.azcourts.gov/selfrepservices/Child-Support-Family-Law-Family-Law-Forms/Disqualification-of-Marriage-with-Children">https://www.azcourts.gov/selfrepservices/Child-Support-Family-Law-Family-Law-Forms/Disqualification-of-Marriage-with-Children</a></p>	<p>No account set up option for self-represented litigants, filing is done at the court</p>	
	<p><b>Custody</b></p> <p><b>Filing with other parent</b></p> <p>STEP 1: Download and complete your forms</p> <p>Case Information Sheet, Petition for Allocation of Parental Responsibilities, and Order for Allocation of Parental Responsibilities</p> <p>STEP 2: Complete the Verification section on the last page of the Petition.</p> <p>STEP 3: File your forms with the Court.</p> <p><b>Filing on your own</b></p> <p>STEP 1: Download and Complete your Forms</p> <p>Case Information Sheet, Petition for Allocation of Parental Responsibilities, Summons to Respond to Petition for Allocation of Parental Responsibilities, and Order for Allocation of Parental Responsibilities</p> <p>STEP 2: Complete the Verification section on the last page of the Petition.</p> <p>STEP 3: File your forms with the court.</p> <p>STEP 4: Arrange to serve the other parent.</p> <p><b>Other Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After you file your case, the clerk will likely give you a Case Management Order</li> <li>Mark the Initial Status Conference date on your calendar.</li> <li>Submit any additional forms the court may need include: Sovereign Financial Statement Certificate of Compliance with C.R.P. 16.2(e)</li> </ul> <p><b>Parenting Plan</b></p> <p>Support Order Petitioner/Co-Petitioner/Respondent Pre-Trial Statement</p> <p>If the Case Management Order gives you specific information on how to schedule a status conference or hearing, follow those steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Go to your Initial Status Conference</li> </ul> <p>Source: <a href="https://www.courts.state.co.us/Self_Help/parentalresponsibilities/">https://www.courts.state.co.us/Self_Help/parentalresponsibilities/</a></p>	<p><b>Custody</b></p> <p>You can start a child custody and/or child support case if you are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A parent;</li> <li>A person other than a parent if the child is NOT in the physical custody of one of the parents;</li> <li>A person other than a parent who has taken physical care of a child for 182 days or more. Such a person must file the case within 182 days after he or she stops physically caring for the child; OR</li> <li>A party to a Dependency and Neglect case if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) There is an existing Dependency and Neglect case; AND</li> <li>(b) No other case involving the child is pending anywhere else.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><b>Divorce</b></p> <p>You or your spouse must have lived in Colorado for at least 91 days before you can file a divorce case in Colorado.</p> <p>Please note that if your minor children have not lived in Colorado for at least 182 days immediately prior to you filing your divorce case, the Colorado Courts may not be able to enter any orders related to parental responsibilities.</p>	<p>Bring the forms required by your Case Management Order with you to the Initial Status Conference.</p> <p>When you have completed all the requirements for your divorce and you are ready for the final decree to be issued you can ask the court to issue your decree without having to appear in court. The decision will be up to the court on whether or not you have to appear.</p>	<p>If an agreement is reached, the parties should file a status report, either by themselves or through their attorney, informing the judge that the parties mediated on a specific date, but no issues were resolved. If the mediator has determined that mediation was not appropriate and did not occur, the mediator may provide a document to you to file with the court to verify you completed with a mediation order.</p> <p>If none of the issues are resolved, but others remain unresolved, then the parties should let the court know the specific details of what was resolved and what the parties want the court to decide.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.courts.state.co.us/Self_Help/parentalresponsibilities/">https://www.courts.state.co.us/Self_Help/parentalresponsibilities/</a></p> <p>Source: <a href="https://www.courts.state.co.us/selfrepservices/Child-Support-Family-Law-Family-Law-Forms/Disqualification-of-Marriage-with-Children">https://www.courts.state.co.us/selfrepservices/Child-Support-Family-Law-Family-Law-Forms/Disqualification-of-Marriage-with-Children</a></p>	<p>List of Resources here (at bottom of page), doesn't say if it is free or not: <a href="https://www.courts.state.co.us/Self_Help/parentalresponsibilities/">https://www.courts.state.co.us/Self_Help/parentalresponsibilities/</a></p>	<p><a href="https://www.courts.state.co.us/Forms/Form_1-111_civil_m_s_cdf_010-040-000">https://www.courts.state.co.us/Forms/Form_1-111_civil_m_s_cdf_010-040-000</a></p>	<p>No account set up option for self-represented litigants, filing is done at the court</p>	
Colorado	<p><b>Divorce</b></p> <p>STEP 1: Identify where to file your divorce case</p> <p>You should file your divorce case with the district court in the county where you live or where your spouse lives.</p> <p>STEP 2: Decide whether you and your spouse will file the divorce case together.</p> <p><b>Filing together:</b></p> <p>STEP 3: Download and complete your forms</p> <p>Case Information Sheet, and Petition for Dissolution of Marriage or Legal Separation</p> <p>STEP 4: Complete the Verification section on the last page of the Petition.</p> <p>STEP 5: File your forms with the Court.</p> <p><b>Filing on your own</b></p> <p>STEP 3: Download and Complete your Forms</p> <p>Case Information Sheet, Petition for Dissolution of Marriage or Legal Separation, and Summons for Dissolution of Marriage or Legal Separation</p> <p>STEP 4: Complete the Verification section on the last page of the Petition.</p> <p>STEP 5: File your forms with the court.</p> <p>STEP 6: Arrange to serve your spouse (the Respondent) with the divorce paperwork</p> <p><b>Remaining Steps (whether you file with spouse or on your own)</b></p> <p>STEP 7: Read over Case Management Order and complete additional forms.</p> <p>STEP 8: Mark the Initial Status Conference date on your calendar.</p> <p>STEP 9: Additional forms the court may need include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sovereign Financial Statement</li> <li>Certificate of Compliance with C.R.P. 16.2(e)</li> <li>Separation Agreement</li> <li>Parenting Plan</li> <li>Decree of Dissolution of Marriage or Legal Separation</li> <li>Support Order</li> <li>Petitioner/Co-Petitioner/Respondent Pre-Trial Statement</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> If the Case Management Order gives you specific information on how to schedule a status conference or hearing, follow those steps.</p> <p>STEP 10: Go to your Initial Status Conference.</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://www.courts.state.co.us/Self_Help/Divorce/">https://www.courts.state.co.us/Self_Help/Divorce/</a></p>	<p><b>Divorce</b></p> <p>In general, one of the spouses must live in Indiana for six (6) months or more being stationed on a military base in Indiana counties and this requirement in order to file for divorce in Indiana.</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://indianacourts.gov/divorce-faq/">https://indianacourts.gov/divorce-faq/</a></p>	<p>When you have completed all the requirements for your divorce and you are ready for the final decree to be issued you can ask the court to issue your decree without having to appear in court. The decision will be up to the court on whether or not you have to appear.</p>	<p>If none of the issues are resolved, but others remain unresolved, then the parties should let the court know the specific details of what was resolved and what the parties want the court to decide.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.courts.state.co.us/Self_Help/parentalresponsibilities/">https://www.courts.state.co.us/Self_Help/parentalresponsibilities/</a></p> <p>Source: <a href="https://www.courts.state.co.us/selfrepservices/Child-Support-Family-Law-Family-Law-Forms/Disqualification-of-Marriage-with-Children">https://www.courts.state.co.us/selfrepservices/Child-Support-Family-Law-Family-Law-Forms/Disqualification-of-Marriage-with-Children</a></p>	<p>List of Resources here (at bottom of page), doesn't say if it is free or not: <a href="https://www.courts.state.co.us/Self_Help/parentalresponsibilities/">https://www.courts.state.co.us/Self_Help/parentalresponsibilities/</a></p>	<p><a href="https://www.courts.state.co.us/Forms/Form_1-111_civil_m_s_cdf_010-040-000">https://www.courts.state.co.us/Forms/Form_1-111_civil_m_s_cdf_010-040-000</a></p>	<p>No account set up option for self-represented litigants, filing is done at the court</p>	
Indiana	<p>Both procedures are started by e-filing documents or paper filing with the court</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://indianacourts.gov/how-to-file-with-the-court/">https://indianacourts.gov/how-to-file-with-the-court/</a></p>	<p>No Special Requirements to Start Custody Procedures</p>	<p>When you have completed all the requirements for your divorce and you are ready for the final decree to be issued you can ask the court to issue your decree without having to appear in court. The decision will be up to the court on whether or not you have to appear.</p>	<p>If none of the issues are resolved, but others remain unresolved, then the parties should let the court know the specific details of what was resolved and what the parties want the court to decide.</p>	<p><a href="https://indianacourts.gov/">https://indianacourts.gov/</a></p>	<p><a href="https://indianacourts.gov/">https://indianacourts.gov/</a></p> <p><a href="https://indiana.filedocketnumbers.org/">https://indiana.filedocketnumbers.org/</a></p>	<p><a href="https://indianacourts.gov/family-law-forms-and-resources/">https://indianacourts.gov/family-law-forms-and-resources/</a></p> <p>Divorce: <a href="https://indianacourts.gov/court-forms/forms-divorce/">https://indianacourts.gov/court-forms/forms-divorce/</a></p> <p>Custody: <a href="https://indianacourts.gov/court-forms/forms-parenting-time-and-custody/">https://indianacourts.gov/court-forms/forms-parenting-time-and-custody/</a></p>	<p>E-filing involves creating an account, depending on the provider chosen the case can be tracked</p>	
Illinois									
Louisiana									
Massachusetts									
Michigan	<p><b>Custody</b></p> <p>Step 1: Custody cases are opened with the following forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complaint</li> <li>Verbal Statement</li> <li>Friend of the Court Questionnaire</li> <li>Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Enforcement Act Affidavit</li> <li>Application for D-V-D Child Support Service</li> <li>Summons to notify the other parent of the case</li> </ul> <p>Step 2:</p>	<p>In custody cases, if you are not married, you'll need to confirm paternity, which can be done by filing an Affidavit of Paternity with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).</p> <p>Most counties require parents to complete a parenting class called SMILE (for married parents) or COPE (for unmarried parents).</p>							
	<p><b>Divorce</b></p> <p>The main documents for an uncontested divorce include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint Complaint for Divorce (signed by both spouses in the presence of a notary)</li> <li>Property Settlement Agreement (also signed by both spouses and notarized)</li> <li>Judgment of Divorce based on irreconcilable differences, and</li> <li>Civil cover sheet form.</li> </ul> <p>If you have minor children, you'll need additional forms, including a "UCCJEA Affidavit."</p> <p>With a contested divorce, you'll complete a Complaint and cover sheet. When you're completing the forms, the spouse who starts the divorce process is the "Plaintiff," and the other spouse is the "Defendant."</p>	<p>For divorce, one party must be an actual, bona fide resident in Mississippi for 6 months before suit.</p>	<p><a href="https://courts.ms.gov/1-legal/Civil/civil.php">https://courts.ms.gov/1-legal/Civil/civil.php</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.majic.org/">http://www.majic.org/</a></p>	<p><a href="https://courts.ms.gov/1-legal/Civil/civil.php">https://courts.ms.gov/1-legal/Civil/civil.php</a></p> <p><a href="https://courts.ms.gov/research/rulesrules.php">https://courts.ms.gov/research/rulesrules.php</a></p>	<p>No account setup</p>				

