

**YAVAPAI COUNTY**  
**Self-Service Center**

**INFORMATION: FILING FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (DIVORCE)**

There are several steps to getting a dissolution of marriage:

- File your case **AND**
  - Service (legal notice) of the dissolution of marriage papers on your spouse **AND**
  - File for Default and get a Default Hearing: only if your spouse does not file a Response within certain time limits **OR**
  - Go to trial if your spouse files a written Response with the Court disagreeing with what you say you want in the Divorce Petition **OR**
  - Reach an agreement with your spouse and submit a form of Consent Decree **AND**
  - Get a Decree of Dissolution of Marriage
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- **TO FILE FOR DIVORCE IN ARIZONA, THESE ARE REQUIREMENTS:**
  - You or your spouse must have made Arizona your home, or been stationed in Arizona while a member of the Armed Forces, for at least 90 days before the Petition is filed;
  - Generally, if you have minor children together, they must have resided in Arizona for at least six months immediately before you file the Petition.

**IMPORTANT TERMS TO USE:**

Generally, because you are filing the Petition, YOU will **ALWAYS** be called the PETITIONER on all documents relating to your case now and for any filings in the future. YOUR SPOUSE will **ALWAYS** be called the RESPONDENT on all documents.

**DEFERRAL OF FILING FEES OR SERVICE COSTS:**

The Court charges a filing fee to file for a divorce. If you believe you are unable to afford the fees and service costs, you may request a deferral. This means you will be making regular payments on the amount you owe the Court for filing and/or service. If the Court denies your request for a deferral, you must pay all filing fees at the time of filing and for service after filing.

**ADVICE AND HELP FROM ATTORNEYS AND MEDIATORS:**

Even if you are representing yourself in court, it is always a good idea to ask an attorney to look over the papers to see if they are correct. An attorney can also help you decide many important legal issues about spousal maintenance (alimony), division of community property and debt, and division of pension or retirement plans.

There are people in the community who will help you with your problems. They are called mediators. Mediators work with both parties in a dispute to help resolve the areas of disagreement or trouble. The Court also offers mediation.