

INSTRUCTIONS TO *PRO SE* LITIGANTS IN DIVORCE

Neither this Court nor personnel of the District Clerk's Office can practice law for you or give you legal advice. Please do not ask them to do so.

If you chose to represent yourself in a divorce, you must comply with the following Court rules before asking the Court to grant a divorce:

1. All pleadings and Court orders must appear neat, clean, with no smudges, strikeouts or handwriting.
2. Fill-in-the-blank pleadings and decrees are prohibited.
3. If provisions contained in the forms you are using do not apply to you and your spouse, do not include them in the petition or decree.
4. All pleadings and decrees must be typed on 8 ½ by 11 inch paper.
5. All pleadings must be originals. If you use preprinted forms, they must be retyped; do not photocopy and fill in the blanks.
6. If children were born during the marriage, the decree must include the following:
 - a. Provision for the custody of the children and with whom they will live;
 - b. A schedule of visitation;
 - c. Provision for the children to be covered by health insurance; and
 - d. Provision for child support in accordance with the guidelines in the Texas Family Code. CHILD SUPPORT CANNOT BE WAIVED without the approval of the Court which will be rarely given.
7. Obtain the Bureau of Vital statistics form from the District Clerk's Office and have it completely filled out before you come to court for your divorce.
8. Although the District Clerk's office can tell you when court will be held, you may get your case on the docket only by contacting the court coordinator for that particular court.

The District Clerk's office has a copy of a publication published by the Texas Young Lawyers Association to assist *pro se* litigants called PRO SE DIVORCE HANDBOOK. You may examine it there or obtain a free copy at http://www.tyla.org/family_law.html. In addition, information may be obtained from the Travis County website: http://www.co.travis.tx.us/records_communication/law_library/forms.asp.

ORDERED THIS THE 10th DAY OF MAY, 2005,


Dwight E. Feschel
District Judge, 25th Judicial District


W.C. Kirkendall
District Judge, 2nd 25th Judicial District