

Court Service Center

New Hampshire Circuit Court

HOW TO FILE FOR DIVORCE OR LEGAL SEPARATION WITH MINOR CHILDREN

General information:

- Jurisdiction: One of the following must apply to file for divorce in New Hampshire:
1. Both parties live in New Hampshire,
 2. The petitioner (the spouse starting the divorce action) has lived in New Hampshire for one year, or
 3. The petitioner lives in New Hampshire and their spouse can be served with divorce papers in New Hampshire.

Forms listed below are needed to start this action:

- Joint Petition for Divorce (NHJB-2058-F)
- Individual Petition for Divorce (NHJB-2057-F)
- Joint Petition for Legal Separation (NHJB-2060-F)
- Individual Petition for Legal Separation (NHJB-2059-F)
- Personal Data Sheet (NHJB-2077-F)

How much will this cost?

- \$252.00

What will happen next:

- A letter will be sent to the Respondent notifying him/her that they have 10 days to go to the court and pick up their copy of the Divorce or Legal Separation Petitions. (Does not apply to Joint Petitions.)
- If Respondent does not go to the court and pick-up the paperwork the court will then send the Petitioner the paperwork along with instructions to have the Respondent served by certified mail or by Sheriff service.
- After a joint petition is filed, or after service of an individual petition, you will be scheduled for a First Appearance session. At this session, a judge or master will explain the court process and highlight important things to think about involving your children.
- Child Impact Seminar information will be sent to the parties and is encouraged that the parties sign up or have taken the class prior to First Appearance. More information on this seminar is on www.courts.state.nh.us/fdpp

Forms that will be needed to finalize your divorce or legal separation:

- Certificate of completion of the Child Impact Seminar
- Parenting Plan (NHJB-2064-F)
- Financial Affidavits completed by each party (NHJB-2065-F)
- Vital Statistics Form must be completed for divorce, legal separation, civil union dissolution or annulment to be final.
- Final Decree on Divorce or Legal Separation (NHJB-2071-F)
- Uniform Support Order (NHJB-2066-FP)
- Child Support Guidelines Worksheet (NHJB-2101-FP)
- Agreement and Parenting Plan Order Designating School District (NHJB-2763-F) (If applicable)

Forms and Instructions are available at any NH Circuit Court

Additional information can be found at:

www.courts.state.nh.us/fdpp