

# Information for Self-Represented Litigants (SRL) in a Divorce

Presented by the Will County Self-Help Center Legal Center

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Location: 100 W. Jefferson St., Joliet IL, 60432  
The Law Library is on the 3rd floor.



# Steps on How to Get a Divorce as an SRL

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1. The individual filing for divorce (the Petitioner) files a divorce petition with the court. Either file a divorce without children petition or a divorce with children petition.
2. The Petitioner also has to file a summons and notice along with the divorce petition to give notice to the other party.
3. The other party receiving the notice (the Respondent) has to file an Appearance.
4. Attend the case management hearing.

# Steps on How to Get a Divorce as an SRL cont.



5. If you are filing a divorce with children petition; also
  - a. File a parenting plan.
  - b. Each party takes and completes the parenting class.
  - c. Use Illinois Child Support Calculator, if needed.
6. File a Judgement of Dissolution of Marriage and a Certificate of Dissolution of Marriage OR complete forms and bring to court on your prove-up (divorce hearing) date.
7. Attend the prove-up (divorce hearing).
8. If applicable, file a name change order.

\*Note that there may be less or more forms required on a case-by-case basis



## Forms to File

### Divorce Without Children:

- Petition
- Appearance
- Financial Affidavit
- Name Change Order (if applicable)
- Judgement
- Certificate

### Divorce With Children:

- Petition
- Appearance
- Financial Affidavit
- Parenting Plan
- Parenting Class Certificates from each party
- Name Change Order (if applicable)
- Judgement
- Certificate



## Court Fee Waivers

**Can't afford to pay  
for court fees?  
Apply for a FEE  
WAIVER!**

- If you cannot afford to pay for court fees, you may apply for a Fee Waiver when you file your Petition.
- Fee Waivers may be granted or denied.
- Partial Fee Waivers may be granted, alleviating a portion of the cost.
  - If granted, the Fee Waiver can be 100%, 75%, 50%, or 25% discount of the cost.
- Each individual/party has to apply for their own separate Fee Waiver.

# Need an Interpreter?

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- The law library staff can use Language Line if an interpreter is needed.
- Both the Will County Circuit Clerk and Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO) each offer forms in other languages. Contact them directly for more information.
- Spanish interpreters are often available in-house. You may request this service from the Clerk.
- Interpreters for languages other than Spanish must be requested in advance of your visit.

# Early Resolution Program (ERP) for SRL Divorces



## PROGRAM CRITERIA:

1. Both parties are self-represented.
2. Both parties are in agreement.
3. No active Orders of Protections or domestic violence complaints against one another.
4. Petition has been filed.
5. Entry of Appearance has been filed by the Respondent, and/or a Summons has been served to the Respondent.

- Benefits of Participation:
  - FREE
  - Quicker than traditional divorce process
  - Coordinators provide information, assistance with forms, and track the process
  - In-person assistance available at the Law Library



## Helpful Resources

- The Will County Circuit Clerk Website  
(<https://www.circuitclerkofwillcounty.com/>)
- Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO)  
(<https://www.illinoislegalaid.org/>)
- Illinois Court Help  
(<https://www.ilcourthelp.gov/hc/en-us>)

## Helpful Resources (with links from any computer with Internet)

### Helpful Resources Specific to Divorce with Children

- Parenting Class  
(<https://online.divorce-education.com/>)
- Illinois Child Support Estimator  
(<https://cscwebext.hfs.illinois.gov/CscWebEx/app/estimator?execution=e1s1>)



We simplify the  
law so you can  
get justice.



## Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO)

- <https://www.illinoislegalaid.org/legal-information/getting-divorce-no-children> (link from any computer with Internet)
- <https://www.illinoislegalaid.org/legal-information/getting-divorce-children> (link from any computer with Internet)
- <https://www.illinoislegalaid.org/legal-information/responding-divorce-case> (link from any computer with Internet)

# How to File



Filing Fee Information:  
Petition = \$364  
Appearance = \$240

1. File in person at the Circuit Clerk's office on the ground floor of the courthouse.

**OR**

2. E-file using [OdysseyeFileLL](#) (link from any computer with Internet). (Must register for an account first.)
3. Next click either "new case" or "existing case".
4. Enter information needed in each tab.
5. The files will either be approved or rejected. If rejected it will specify why, make changes and resubmit.

  
**Any Questions?**





**Thank You for Joining Us Today!**



*Thank you!*

# For More Information, Contact Us Below

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