

HOW DO I APPLY?

If you believe that you meet the qualifications outlined in this pamphlet, you must come in during the intake hours listed below to fill out an application. Once you successfully apply to our program, an attorney will be assigned to your case within 4 to 6 weeks. Your attorney will contact you once assigned.

INTAKE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday
10:00 a.m. - Noon

11th Floor, Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

WHAT TO BRING

- Photo identification
- Your spouse's address, your exact date of separation, and your date and county of marriage
- Proof of Income (ACCESS Card, SSI documentation, paystub or tax return)

HOW LONG DOES THE PROCESS TAKE?

The exact length of the case will depend upon the date of separation and the level of cooperation of both parties. If both parties cooperate fully, the divorce process typically takes 4 to 6 months to complete after the volunteer attorney has filed the complaint.

For additional information please call:

THE DIVORCE LAW PROJECT

412-402-6714

Allegheny County Bar Foundation
11th Floor, Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

www.pittsburghprobono.org
www.acbf.org

The Allegheny County Bar Foundation

DIVORCE
— LAW —
PROJECT



**PRO BONO
CENTER**
Allegheny County Bar Foundation



WHAT IS THE DIVORCE LAW PROJECT?

The Divorce Law Project is a program of the Pro Bono Center of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation that helps individuals with low incomes to obtain simple, uncontested, no-fault divorces.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PROGRAM?

Prospective clients must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible for this program:

- Residency in Allegheny County for at least six months prior to application
- Demonstrate a low income, equal to or less than 125% of the poverty guidelines
- Parties separated for at least one year or a current final Protection from Abuse order
- Willingness to proceed only on a simple divorce claim
- Ability to provide complete address of spouse who will cooperate in accepting service

WHAT IF I DO NOT KNOW WHERE MY SPOUSE IS PRESENTLY?

Service of the divorce complaint on your spouse is critical and cannot be waived or omitted. If you do not have a valid address where your spouse may be served, you are not eligible for the program.

WHAT IS NO-FAULT DIVORCE?

Under Pennsylvania law, parties may be divorced without proving that one spouse did something wrong to cause grounds for a divorce.

WHAT IF ONE SPOUSE WILL NOT AGREE TO THE DIVORCE?

The parties may be divorced without the consent of the defendant if the parties have been *separated for at least 1 year* and the marriage is irretrievably broken. This is not automatic as a spouse can always claim one's marriage is not "irretrievably broken" and demand a hearing.

WHAT DO I DO TO REGAIN MY MAIDEN NAME?

You may file to resume your prior name at any time while your divorce is pending or after a divorce decree is entered by going to the Department of Court Records, City-County Building, 414 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. The cost to file is \$10.00. Pay with cash, certified check, or money order. The filing fee amount is subject to change.

WILL I GET A COPY OF THE DECREE?

The Court will provide a copy of the decree to you through your attorney. The decree is necessary if you ever plan to remarry. If you are in need of more than one copy, go to the Department of Court Records, City-County Building, 414 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. The cost for an additional copy of the decree is \$10.00. Pay with cash, certified check, or money order. This cost is subject to change.

WHAT ABOUT CHILD CUSTODY AND CHILD SUPPORT?

This program cannot provide an attorney for child custody or child support issues. If these matters are contested between the parties, you must retain private counsel to assist you. You will not lose any rights regarding either child custody or child support by being granted a divorce under the program. These matters may always be resolved by the Court, even after the divorce has been granted. The program may be able to refer you to a program where you may be able to find help.

WHAT ABOUT ALIMONY AND SPOUSAL SUPPORT?

The program will not provide an attorney in cases where there is a chance of you receiving alimony or spousal support from your spouse. Waiver of alimony and spousal support is permanent upon entry of a divorce decree. The Divorce Law Project will not advise on whether you should waive such rights. If you wish to pursue alimony claims, you must retain private counsel to assist you with your divorce.

WHAT ABOUT MARITAL ASSETS AND DEBTS?

This program MAY be able to help you with marital asset and debt issues (such as a house or a car). Successful applicants must assert that both parties will be able and willing to attend face-to-face meetings, with attorneys present, and openly communicate. Further eligibility screening will be required. If you have marital property issues and are not eligible for these services, you must retain private counsel to assist you with your divorce.