

DIVORCE PROCESS

<p>Step 1 (Petition)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Complete initial questionnaire and return to The Document People (<i>TDP</i>) so they can prepare the initial Petition.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sign the initial Petition and provide a check for the court filing fee.*</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>TDP</i> will file the Petition with the court. It takes the clerk approx. 2-3 weeks to return a filed copy.</p> <p>* The court filing fee must be paid by check or money order. If you make under a certain amount of money and/or receive government assistance and would like to apply for a fee waiver, let us know.</p>
<p>Step 2 (Service)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>AFTER</u> the filed Petition returns from the court, <i>TDP</i> will notify you by phone and/or email.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The next step is to serve your spouse with a copy of the filed paperwork. You have three options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Option 1.</u> Your spouse can stop by the office and one of our staff members will hand him the documents. - <u>Option 2.</u> We can mail the documents to your spouse. Please keep in mind that if you would like us to mail the service packet to your spouse, <u>he/she must sign a court form</u> (which will be included in the packet) and return it back to us by mail. If they do not return the signed form back, the service is not valid. - <u>Option 3.</u> You can have a third party (friend/family member/process server) hand deliver the documents to your spouse. This will avoid the need to collect your spouse's signature. <p>IMPORTANT: Once your spouse has been served; 1) your 6 months and 1-day start counting down (also known as the jurisdiction date). This is the earliest you can be divorced in the state of California. 2) Your spouse, also known as the Respondent, has 30 days to file a response if he/she is not in agreement. Even if the Respondent chooses not to respond, the court will not accept any more paperwork for that period of time.</p>
<p>Step 3 (Finals)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> If your spouse is not in agreement, please talk to one of our staff members to discuss how to proceed with your case. Otherwise, once the 30-day waiting period has expired, <i>TDP</i> will give you more questionnaires to complete.* These questionnaires provide us the information we need to prepare your final documents.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> After you have returned your final questionnaires, <i>TDP</i> will begin preparing your final documents. The final paperwork will take approx. 3-4 weeks to prepare. If both parties are in agreement, the finals will include a Marital Settlement Agreement. Once <i>TDP</i> has a draft of the Marital Settlement Agreement, we will email it to you to review with your spouse.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> After you and your spouse approve of the agreement, we will schedule an appointment for both of you to stop by the office to sign the final documents.</p> <p>* Final questionnaires include income and expense declarations. Please note that we will need you and your spouse to each fill out an Income and Expense questionnaire. Income and expense disclosures are required by the court and will not impact your agreement.</p>
<p>Step 4 (Judgment)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Once you and your spouse sign the final documents, they are submitted to the court for filing. The Judge takes approx. 2-3 months to review and sign off on your final Judgment.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The court will mail both, you and your spouse, copies of the Judgment to keep for your records. Please note that this form will be stamped with the date your divorce will be effective (either the 6 months and 1 day from the jurisdiction date or later if your documents are not filed and processed within the 6 months), this is the date you are restored to a single person.</p> <p>IMPORTANT: Once you receive the filed Judgment you are done; you will not be receiving anything else from the court.</p>

If you want to check the progress of your case, in Los Angeles County, go to www.lacourt.org.

Under “Family” select “Case Access”. On the next screen, scroll to the area at the bottom, and type your case number. Please remember that they are always a few days behind in updating the website, so don’t expect something that has been filed today to show up same day.

After we have submitted the finals to the court, there is nothing more we can do.
If you feel you need to talk to the clerks for any reason, please call the court directly.

The screenshot shows the LACourtConnect website navigation menu. The 'Online Services' tab is highlighted in yellow. Below the navigation menu, there are several columns of links. A red arrow points to the 'Case Access' link under the 'Family Law' section.

- Home
- Online Services**
Pay Fines, Search Records...
- Forms, Filings & Files
Forms, Filing Fees...
- Self-Help
Self-Rep, Info, FAQs...
- Divisions
Civil, Criminal, Family...
- Jury
Jury Duty Portal, Q&A...
- General Info
Courthouses, ADA...

Appellate Division and Appeals Division

- Case Access
- Tentative Rulings

Civil

- Civil eFiling
- Case Access
- Case Document Images
- Case Calendar
- Court Reservation System (CRS)
- Courtroom Information
- Filing Court Locator
- Interpreter Request
- Search for Case Number by Name
- Tentative Rulings

Criminal

- Government Agency Criminal Record Online Request
- Criminal Calendar Search
- Criminal Case Summary
- Search for Case by Defendant Name

Family Law

- NEW * Request for Order Dates
- Case Calendar
- Case Access
- Case Document Images
- Divorce Judgment Documents
- Filing Court Locator
- Interpreter Request
- On-line Dispute Resolution
- Our Children First
- Search for Case Number by Name
- Tentative Rulings

Probate

- Probate eFiling
- Case Access
- Case Document Images
- Case Calendar
- Filing Court Locator
- Interpreter Request
- Probate Notes
- Search for Case Number by Name

Small Claims

- Case Access
- Case Document Images
- Case Calendar
- Courtroom Information
- Filing Court Locator
- Interpreter Request
- Search for Case Number by Name
- Small Claims eFiling

Traffic

- Find Your Ticket by Drivers License
- Find Your Ticket by Ticket Number
- Búsqueda por licencia de manejar
- Búsqueda por número de multa
- Interpreter Request

Other

- Court Date Calculator
- Access to Electronic Records

Case Access



The Los Angeles Superior Court declares that information provided by and obtained from this site, intended for use on a case-by-case basis and typically by parties of record and participants, does not constitute the official record of the court. Any user of the information is hereby advised that it is being provided as is and that it may be subject to error or omission. The user acknowledges and agrees that the Los Angeles Superior Court is not liable in any way whatsoever for the accuracy or validity of the information provided.

This site includes case information for Civil, Small Claims, Family Law, and Probate.

Limited jurisdiction cases are cases in which the dollar amount or value of property in dispute does not exceed \$25,000.00. This includes Small Claims and most Unlawful Detainers. General jurisdiction cases include all other matters.

[View important information about unavailability of certain case types and unavailability of some case information.](#)

Your Landlord Tenant (eviction) case may have been relocated. For more information, click [here](#)

Enter a case number (and optionally select a filing courthouse for Limited Jurisdiction cases only) then click search.

CASE NUMBER:

FILING COURTHOUSE: (Optional)