

# **DIVORCE INSTRUCTIONS/FORMS**

## **“PACKET D”**

### **SECTION 3301(D) DIVORCE**

**USE “PACKET D” INSTRUCTIONS AND FORMS WHEN YOUR SPOUSE WILL NOT SIGN A CONSENT TO THE ENTRY OF A DIVORCE, BUT YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE HAVE BEEN SEPARATED FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS AND NO PROPERTY MUST BE DIVIDED AND NO SUPPORT ISSUES MUST BE ADDRESSED.**

**IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU CONTACT “ATTORNEY CONNECTIONS” AT (717) 854-8755 FOR A LOW-COST INITIAL CONSULTATION WITH AN ATTORNEY BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER.**

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## **PACKET D – INSTRUCTIONS**

Use this packet to obtain a no-fault divorce in York County based on a separation lasting for two or more years. To be able to file your divorce action in York County, either you or your spouse must live in York County. In addition, this packet is **NOT** appropriate for you if **ANY** of the following pertain to you:

1. You have not been a resident of Pennsylvania for at least six months.
2. You want to request alimony, alimony pendente lite, equitable distribution of property, counsel fees, costs, expenses or any other type of economic relief.
3. Your spouse is on active duty in the military.
4. You wish to include custody and/or child support as part of the divorce action. (**Note:** a separate custody action can be filed with the Prothonotary on the first floor of the York County Judicial Center at any time before or after the filing of the Divorce Complaint. A child support action can be started at any time before or after the filing of the Divorce Complaint by going to the York County Domestic Relations Office located on the second floor of the York County Judicial Center. You should consult with an attorney if you have any questions about filing for custody or child support.)
5. Your spouse will consent to the entry of a divorce decree, in which case, you should use “Packet C” Instructions/Forms.
6. You have not lived separate and apart from your spouse for at least two years. You do not have to reside in separate households to be considered separated. “Separate and apart” is defined as the “cessation of cohabitation, whether living in the same residence or not.” 23 Pa.C.S.A. §3103.

**IMPORTANT:** All forms and instructions are available on-line in portable document format (pdf). You will need Adobe Reader<sup>®</sup> to open the forms. You can download and install Adobe Reader<sup>®</sup> for free at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>. The forms are “interactive.” That means you can fill in the blanks on a form using your computer, and then print the form. You will NOT be able to save the filled-in version of the form unless you have Adobe Acrobat<sup>®</sup>. Use Adobe Reader<sup>®</sup> “Help” for instructions on how to fill in forms. Use the checklist on the last page of these instructions to keep track of the forms you use.

The forms and instructions start on the next page of this document. The instructions are “bookmarked” to help you navigate. Just click on the “Bookmarks” tab at the top of the left-hand side of the page. The instructions also contain links to the forms. These links are highlighted in red. Use the bookmarks to move back and forth between the forms and instructions.

## SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Take the following steps to obtain a no-fault divorce decree based on a separation of two years or longer (Section 3301(d) Divorce):

### Step 1. Starting the Action.

Complete the following forms (form numbers correspond to the checklist that appears at the end of these instructions):

[Form 1.1, Notice to Defend](#)

[Form 1.2, Divorce Complaint](#)

[Form 1.3, Section 3301\(d\) Affidavit of Separation](#)

[Form 1.4, Social Security Information Sheet; and](#)

[Form 1.5, Divorce Information Sheet.](#)

**YOU MUST ATTACH A “NOTICE TO DEFEND” TO YOUR COMPLAINT. THE NOTICE TO DEFEND MUST BE PROVIDED IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH UNDER YORK COUNTY’S RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, REGARDLESS OF YOUR OR YOUR SPOUSE’S PRIMARY LANGUAGE.**

#### A. Completing the Caption on the Notice to Defend (Form 1.1).

1. The caption is the top part of the first page of the Notice to Defend and the first page of the Divorce Complaint. The names of the parties, the docket number (which will be assigned by the Prothonotary when the document is filed), the type of document and the court’s name are contained in the caption.
2. You are “the Plaintiff” since you are filing this action. Print your full legal name, including middle initial, above the word “Plaintiff” in the caption of the Notice to Defend and the Complaint.
3. Your spouse is “the Defendant” (husband or wife). Print your spouse’s full legal name, including middle initial, above the word “Defendant” in the caption of the Notice to Defend and the Complaint.

**YOU MUST COMPLETE THE CAPTION ON EVERY FORM YOU FILE. THE DOCKET NUMBER WILL BE PROVIDED TO YOU BY THE PROTHONOTARY’S OFFICE WHEN YOU FILE THE NOTICE TO DEFEND AND THE COMPLAINT. YOU MUST FILL IN THE DOCKET NUMBER IN THE CAPTION OF ALL FORMS THAT YOU FILE AFTER THE NOTICE TO DEFEND AND THE COMPLAINT.**

**B. Completing the Caption on the Divorce Complaint (Form 1.2).**

Fill in the caption on the Divorce Complaint the same way you completed the caption on the Notice to Defend.

**C. Completing the numbered paragraphs of the Complaint (Form 1.2).**

1. Fill in your full legal name, including the middle initial, your full street address (number and street, route, box number, town, county, state and zip code), and the month and year you began living at this address, where indicated. If you receive your mail at a post office box, insert the P.O. Box address at the end of the paragraph as follows: “The Plaintiff’s mailing address is: (insert full mailing address including P.O. Box number).”
2. Fill in your spouse’s full legal name, including his/her middle initial, his/her full street address (number and street, route, box number, town, county, state and zip code), and the month and year your spouse began living at this address, where indicated. If your spouse receives his/her mail at a post office box, insert the P.O. Box address at the end of the paragraph as follows: “The Defendant’s mailing address is: (insert full mailing address including P.O. Box number).”
3. There is nothing to complete in this paragraph. It is a statement claiming that you have resided in Pennsylvania for at least six months before filing the Complaint. This statement, like all others on these forms, must be true.
4. Fill in the complete date of your marriage (Month, Date and Year) and the city, county, and state (or foreign country) in which you were married.
5. If there has never been another divorce filed during the marriage, write the word “none.” If there was an action filed in the past, write the docket number, the county in which the Divorce Complaint was filed, who filed the action, and what happened with the action (withdrawn, dismissed, etc.). If the action was not filed in Pennsylvania, also indicate the state or foreign country (if applicable) in which the action was filed.
6. There is nothing to complete in this paragraph. It is a statement claiming that your spouse is not a member of the Armed Forces of the United States of America or any of its Allies. This statement, like all others on these forms, must be true.
7. There is nothing to complete in this paragraph. It is a statement claiming that your marriage is irretrievably broken.
8. Fill in the date you and your spouse separated, where indicated.

9. There is nothing to complete in this paragraph. It states that counseling is available.
10. There is nothing to complete in this paragraph. It requests that a divorce decree be entered.

**Sign and date.** Sign and date the Complaint where indicated. Print your name, address, and telephone number under your signature.

**D. Completing the Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation (Form 1.3)**

1. Complete the caption. The docket number will be provided by the Prothonotary at the time of filing.
2. Fill in the date you and your spouse separated in Paragraph #1.
3. Sign and date the Affidavit and insert your telephone number, where indicated.

**E. Completing the Social Security Information Sheet (Form 1.4).**

1. Fill in the blanks with the information requested. The docket number will be provided by the Prothonotary at the time of filing. If your spouse will not disclose his/her social security number, contact the office of the Prothonotary at (717) 771-9611 for guidance.
2. **The Court will not sign a Divorce Decree unless this form has been completed and filed.**

**F. Completing the Divorce Information Sheet (Form 1.5).**

1. Fill in the blanks with the information requested, except for the docket number and the "Date of Decree." The docket number will be provided by the Prothonotary at the time of filing. The Court will fill in the date of the decree when it issues your Divorce Decree.
2. **The Court will not sign a Divorce Decree unless this form has been completed and filed.**

**Step 2. Filing the Initial Documents.**

File the Notice to Defend, Complaint, Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation, Social Security Information Sheet, and Divorce Information Sheet with the Prothonotary. The Prothonotary is the keeper of the civil court records. The Prothonotary's Office is located on the first floor of the York County Judicial Center. **NOTE: TO BE ABLE TO FILE FOR DIVORCE IN YORK COUNTY, YOU OR YOUR SPOUSE MUST LIVE IN YORK COUNTY.**

- A. Make two copies of the entire completed Notice to Defend, Complaint, and Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation and one copy of the Social Security Information Sheet and one copy of the Divorce Information Sheet.
- B. Take the original Notice to Defend, Complaint, the Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation, the Social Security Information Sheet, the Divorce Information Sheet and the copies to the York County Prothonotary's Office located on the first floor of the York County Judicial Center along with the filing fee in cash, certified check, money order or travelers checks payable to the "Prothonotary of York County." The amount of the filing fee can be obtained by calling the Prothonotary's office at (717) 771-9611.
- C. The Prothonotary's staff will place a docket number on each Notice to Defend, each Complaint, each Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation, each Social Security Information Sheet and each Divorce Information Sheet. The Prothonotary's staff will date-stamp each document and return two date-stamped copies of the Notice to Defend, Complaint, and Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation and one date-stamped copy of the Social Security Information Sheet and the Divorce Information Sheet to you.
- D. One of the date-stamped copies of each document is for you to keep for your records. One of the date stamped copies of the Notice to Defend, one of the date stamped copies of the Complaint and one of the date stamped copies of the Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation must be served on the Defendant (your spouse) within thirty days of the filing of the Complaint.

### **Step 3. Serving the Initial Documents.**

You must complete "service" of the Notice to Defend, the Complaint, and the Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation. "Service" means that the Defendant received the Notice to Defend, the Complaint and the Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation. Service must be made within thirty days of the filing of the Complaint. You must file a document with the court to prove that you completed service. Service can be accomplished in any one of the following ways:

- A. **Acceptance of Service (use [Form 3.1](#)).** If you are on cordial terms with your spouse, an easy way to accomplish service is to mail or hand deliver the Notice to Defend, the Complaint, and the Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation to your spouse and have him or her, in the presence of a notary, sign, date, and return to you the Acceptance of Service Form (Form 3.1). Before sending the Acceptance of Service Form to your spouse, fill in the caption, including the docket number and the date that the Notice to Defend, the Complaint and the Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation were filed. Instruct your spouse to fill in the date he/she received the Notice to Defend,

Complaint, and Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation, his/her mailing address and telephone number and to have his/her signature notarized. Once your spouse has returned the signed form to you, make a copy and take the original form and the copy to the Prothonotary's Office for filing. The Prothonotary's staff will date-stamp the original and copy, keep the original and return the copy to you for your records.

**B. Service by Certified Mail (use [Form 3.2](#)).** Service of the Notice to Defend, the Complaint and the Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation can be accomplished by sending the extra date-stamped copies of each to the Defendant **by certified mail, return receipt requested, restricted delivery**. **The Defendant is the only person who is permitted to sign for the delivery of the Notice to Defend, the Complaint and the Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation. To accomplish service by Certified Mail, do the following:**

1. Prepare an envelope with your spouse's name and mailing address, using your own address as the return address.
2. Insert the date-stamped copies of the Notice to Defend, the Complaint and Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation into the envelope and seal.
3. Print the words "Restricted Delivery" on the lower left hand corner of the envelope. It is best to do this with red ink.
4. Take the envelope to the Post Office and tell the postal worker that you want to send it "certified mail, return receipt requested, restricted delivery."
5. The postal worker will help you complete the "green card" and attach it to your envelope.
6. The postal worker will provide you with a receipt after you have paid the fee for mailing. **MAKE SURE YOU KEEP THIS RECEIPT.** You will need to attach it to your Affidavit of Service by Certified Mail (See # 7, below).
7. When the green card is returned to you, completely fill out and sign the Affidavit of Service by Certified Mail (Form 3.2) and attach the receipt and the green card to it. Make a copy of the completed Affidavit of Service by Certified Mail and take the original and the copy to the Prothonotary's Office for filing. The Prothonotary's staff will date-stamp the original and copy, keep the original and return the copy to you for your records.

**C. Personal Service (use [Form 3.3](#)).** Service can also be accomplished by an adult, other than you, personally handing the date-stamped copy of the Notice to Defend, the Complaint and the Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation to your spouse. The adult who handed the papers to your spouse must fill out and sign the Affidavit of



Personal Service (Form 3.3) after you have filled in the caption and docket number on the Affidavit of Personal Service. Make a copy of the completed Affidavit of Personal Service and take the original and the copy to the Prothonotary's Office for filing. The Prothonotary's staff will date-stamp the original and copy, keep the original and return the copy to you for your records.

- D. **Service by York County Sheriff.** The most certain way to ensure service is to pay the York County Sheriff's Office to serve the Notice to Defend, the Complaint and the Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation. Take the date-stamped copy of the Notice to Defend, the Complaint, and the Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation to the Sheriff's Office located at the first floor of the York County Judicial Center. You will need to pay the Sheriff's fee in advance. After the Sheriff has served the Notice to Defend, the Complaint and the Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation, he/she will file his/her affidavit of service in the Prothonotary's Office and provide you with a copy for your records.

#### **Step 4. Establishing Grounds for Divorce.**

Before the court will issue a decree in divorce, you must demonstrate that you meet the requirements of the Divorce Code. You can do this by completing, filing, and serving the Notice of Intention to Request Entry of a Divorce Decree (Form 4.1) and Counter-Affidavit Under §3301(d) of the Divorce Code (Form 4.2).

- A. After at least twenty days have passed since your spouse was served with the Notice to Defend, the Complaint, and the Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation, you should complete, file, and serve the Notice of Intention to Request Entry of a Divorce Decree (Form 4.1) and Counter-Affidavit Under §3301(d) of the Divorce Code (Form 4.2).
- B. **Notice of Intention to Request Entry of a Divorce Decree (Form 4.1).** Fill in the caption. In the first paragraph, insert a date that is at least twenty days after the date this notice will be delivered or mailed to your spouse.
- C. **Counter-Affidavit Under §3301(d) of the Divorce Code (Form 4.2).** Fill in the caption only on this form. Leave the rest of the form blank for your spouse to fill out.
- D. **Filing.** Attach the Counter-Affidavit Under §3301(d) behind the Notice of Intention to Request Entry of a Divorce Decree and make two copies of these documents. Take the originals and the copies to the Prothonotary's Office for filing. The Prothonotary's staff will date-stamp the originals and the copies, keep the originals and return the copies to you. One copy of each document is for you to keep for your records and one copy of each document is to be served (delivered) to your spouse.

E. **Service.** Service of the Notice of Intention to Request Entry of a Divorce Decree and of the Counter-Affidavit Under §3301(d) of the Divorce Code can be accomplished by any one of the following methods:

1. **Acceptance of Service (use [Form 4.3a](#)).** Service can be accomplished by your spouse signing and returning the Acceptance and Acknowledgment of Service Form (Form 4.3a). If this method is utilized, fill in the caption of the form, have your spouse fill out the remainder of the form, sign the form in the presence of a notary and return it to you. Make a copy of the form, and take the original and the copy to the Prothonotary's Office. The Prothonotary's staff will date-stamp the original and copy, keep the original and return the copy to you for your records.
2. **Service by mail (use [Form 4.3b](#)).** Service can be accomplished by mailing a copy of the Notice of Intention to Request Entry of a Divorce Decree and of the Counter-Affidavit Under §3301(d) of the Divorce Code to your spouse by regular first class mail. If this method is utilized, fill out the Certificate of Service by First Class Mail Form (Form 4.3b). Make a copy of the form, and take the original and the copy to the Prothonotary's Office. The Prothonotary's staff will date-stamp the original and copy, keep the original and return the copy to you for your records.
3. **Personal Service (use [Form 4.3c](#)).** Service can be accomplished by having an adult, other than yourself, personally deliver the Notice of Intention to Request Entry of a Divorce Decree and the Counter-Affidavit Under §3301(d) of the Divorce Code to your spouse. If this method is utilized, fill in the caption of the Affidavit of Service Form (Form 4.3c), have the person who delivered the documents to your spouse fill in the remainder of the form and sign it. Make a copy of the form, and take the original and the copy to the Prothonotary's Office. The Prothonotary's staff will date-stamp the original and copy, keep the original and return the copy to you for your records.

### **Step 5. Finalizing the Divorce.**

You must wait at least twenty days after service (delivery) of the Notice of Intention to Request Entry of a Divorce Decree and of the Counter-Affidavit Under §3301(d) of the Divorce Code before you can proceed to finalize your divorce as follows:

- A. If your spouse files the "Counter-Affidavit" with the Prothonotary and indicates that he/she opposes the entry of the divorce decree and/or that he/she wishes to file economic claims, the divorce cannot be finalized until those issues are resolved. **In that event, you should immediately obtain an attorney to represent you in**

**resolving these issues and finalizing your divorce.** In the alternative, if you decide to proceed without the recommended assistance of counsel, proceed to the York County Divorce Master's Website. ([Click here to go to the website.](#)) Follow the instructions for appointing a divorce master for the appropriate issue. **You can contact the Prothonotary's Office at (717) 771-9611 to see if your spouse filed a Counter-Affidavit. You should allow three days after the deadline for the filed document to be entered in the docket.**

- B. If your spouse does not file the "Counter-Affidavit" with the Prothonotary by the date indicated on the Notice of Intention to Request Entry of a Divorce Decree or files the "Counter-Affidavit" with the indication that he/she does not oppose the entry of the divorce decree and does not wish to file economic claims, you can finalize your divorce by completing and filing a Praecipe to Transmit Record (Form 5.1) and two copies of the Rule 236 Notice of Decree in Divorce (Form 5.2).
- C. **Praecipe to Transmit Record (Form 5.1).** Fill in the caption and docket number and complete the following:

**Paragraph 1.** You do not need to fill in this paragraph since it simply states that the ground for divorce is irretrievable breakdown (no-fault) under §3301(d) of the divorce code (two-year or more separation).

**Paragraph 2.** In the first blank, if the Complaint was served by certified mail, insert the date your spouse signed the green card; if the Complaint was served personally by another adult or by Sheriff, fill in the date the Complaint was delivered to your spouse; and if your spouse accepted service of the Complaint, then insert the date the Acceptance of Service was signed. In the second blank, if the Complaint was served by certified mail, print "Service by Certified Mail, Restricted Delivery, Return Receipt Requested"; if the Complaint was served personally by another adult or by a Sheriff, fill in the location of service, and the name of the person/Sheriff who served the Complaint; and if your spouse accepted service of the Complaint then print "Defendant accepted service of the Complaint by signing an Acceptance of Service."

**Paragraph 3.** Print the date you signed the Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation.

**Paragraph 4.** Print the date you filed the Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation with the Prothonotary's Office (the date stamped on the document by the Prothonotary) in the first blank and print the date you served your spouse with the Section 3301(d) Affidavit of Separation in the second blank.

**Paragraph 5.** You do not need to fill in this paragraph since it simply states that there are no related economic claims, such as alimony and equitable distribution pending before the court. Like all other statements you make in your documents, this statement must be true.

**Paragraph 6.** Print the date on which you served the Notice of Intention to Request Entry of a Divorce Decree and the Counter-Affidavit Under §3301(d) of the Divorce Code on your spouse and attach a date-stamped copy of these two documents to the Praeceptum to Transmit Record.

**Sign and date.** Sign and date the Praeceptum to Transmit Record.

**Rule 236 Notice of Decree in Divorce (Form 5.2).**

**Name and address.** Fill in your spouse's name and correct mailing address in the blank lines in the upper left-hand corner of the form.

**Docket number.** Fill in the docket number in the blank after the word "No:" on the right side of the form.

**Caption.** Fill in the caption of the Rule 236 Notice of Decree in Divorce (Form 5.2) with the name of the plaintiff in the space after the word "RE," and the name of the defendant in the blank after the word "VS".

**Signature Block.** Fill in your name, address and telephone number in the "Attorney or Filing Party" spaces. **DO NOT FILL IN ANY OF THE DATE SPACES BECAUSE THE PROTHONOTARY WILL FILL IN THESE SPACES WHEN THE DIVORCE DECREE IS FILED.**

Make one copy of the Praeceptum to Transmit Record and two copies of the Rule 236 Notice. Take the originals and copies of both documents to the Prothonotary's Office for filing along with two stamped envelopes, one addressed to you and one addressed to your spouse. The Prothonotary's Office will keep the envelopes and the original documents and return the date-stamped copies to you for your records.

The Prothonotary's Office will forward your file to the appropriate judge for review and signature.

If all documents have been filed and served correctly, you should receive your signed divorce decree and Rule 236 Notice promptly. Your spouse will receive a Rule 236 Notice that the divorce decree has been entered. Your spouse can obtain a certified copy of the decree from the Prothonotary for a fee. If everything was not prepared properly, you will receive correspondence from the reviewing judge detailing the deficiencies and what needs to be done to correct any errors.

**Step 6 (optional). Resuming a prior surname (use [Form 6.1](#)).**

At any time after the Complaint has been filed, the spouse that changed his/her name upon marriage may choose to resume his/her prior surname (last name) by filling out the Notice to Resume Prior Surname (Form 6.1), filing it with the Prothonotary's Office and paying a filing fee. The filing fee can be obtained by calling the Prothonotary's office at (717) 771-9611.

- A. **Caption.** Fill out the caption with the names of the parties and the docket number of the divorce action.
- B. **First line.** Check the appropriate box to show whether you were the Plaintiff or Defendant in the divorce action.
- C. **Lines 3 and 4.** Check the box to show whether the divorce decree has been entered yet. If the decree has been entered, fill in the date of the decree in the blank after the word "dated" near the end of line 4.
- D. **Date.** Fill in the date that you are signing the form.
- E. **Signature block and Notary block.** Take the unsigned form to a Notary Public. In the presence of the notary, sign your name as it appears in the caption on the first line, and print that name underneath the signature. Sign your name as it will appear after it has been changed on the third line. The Notary Public will fill in the notary block and return the document to you. The Notary Public will charge a fee for this service.
- F. **File the document.** Take the signed form to the Prothonotary's Office and pay the filing fee.

## Packet D – Forms Checklist

### Step 1 Forms – Starting the Action:

- 1.1  Notice to Defend
- 1.2  Divorce Complaint (Filing Fee Required)
- 1.3  Affidavit of Separation Under Section 3301(d) of the Divorce Code
- 1.4  Social Security Information Sheet
- 1.5  Divorce Information Sheet

### Step 3 Forms - Proof of Service (only one needed):

- 3.1  Acceptance of Service, or
- 3.2  Affidavit of Service by Certified Mail, or
- 3.3  Affidavit of Personal Service

### Step 4 Forms – Establishing Grounds for Divorce:

- 4.1  Notice of Intention to Request Entry of Section 3301(d) Divorce Decree
- 4.2  Counter-Affidavit Under Section 3301(d) of the Divorce Code

#### Proof of Service Forms (only one needed)

- 4.3a  Acceptance and Acknowledgement of Service, or
- 4.3b  Affidavit of Service by Mail, or
- 4.3c  Affidavit of Service by Personal Service

### Step 5 Forms – Finalizing the Divorce:

- 5.1  Praecipe to Transmit Record
- 5.2  Rule 236 Notice of Decree in Divorce

### Step 6 (optional) Form:

- 6.1  Notice to Resume Prior Surname (use only if a party desires to resume her/his prior last name) (Filing Fee Required)

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
FAMILY LAW DIVISION**

\_\_\_\_\_  
PLAINTIFF (Your Name)

vs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEFENDANT (Your Spouse's Name)

: No.  
:  
: **ACTION IN DIVORCE**  
:  
: **CIVIL ACTION – LAW**

**NOTICE TO DEFEND AND CLAIM RIGHTS**

YOU HAVE BEEN SUED IN COURT. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take prompt action. You are warned that if you fail to do so, the case may proceed without you and a decree of divorce or annulment may be entered against you by the court. A judgment may also be entered against you for any other claim or relief requested in these papers by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you, including custody or visitation of your children.

When the ground for the divorce is indignities or irretrievable breakdown of the marriage, you may request marriage counseling. A list of marriage counselors is available in the Office of the Prothonotary at the York County Judicial Center, 45 North George Street, York, Pennsylvania 17401.

IF YOU DO NOT FILE A CLAIM FOR ALIMONY, DIVISION OF PROPERTY, LAWYERS FEES OR EXPENSES BEFORE A DIVORCE OR ANNULMENT IS GRANTED, YOU MAY LOSE THE RIGHT TO CLAIM ANY OF THEM.

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER OR CANNOT AFFORD ONE, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP.

Lawyer Referral Service of the  
York County Bar Association  
York County Bar Center  
137 East Market Street  
York, Pennsylvania 17401  
Telephone (717) 854-8755

**AVISO PARA DEFENDER Y RECLAMAR DERECHOS**

USTED HA SIDO DEMANDADO EN LA CORTE. Si desea defenderse de las quejas expuestas en las páginas siguientes, debe tomar acción con prontitud. Se le avisa que si no se defiende, el caso puede proceder sin usted y un decreto de divorcio o anulamiento puede ser emitido en su contra por la Corte. Una decisión puede también ser emitida en su contra por cualquier otra queja o compensación reclamados por el demandante en estos papeles. Usted puede perder dinero, o propiedades u otros derechos importantes para usted, incluyendo custodia o visitas de sus hijos.

Cuando la base para el divorcio es indignidades o rompimiento irreparable del matrimonio, usted puede solicitar consejo matrimonial. Una lista de consejeros matrimoniales esta disponible en la oficina del Prothonotary, en la York County Judicial Center, 45 North George Street, York, Pennsylvania 17401.

SI USTED NO RECLAMA PENSIÓN ALIMENTICIA, PROPIEDAD MARITAL, HONORARIOS DE ABOGADO U OTROS GASTOS ANTES DE QUE EL DECRETO FINAL DE DIVORCIO O ANULAMIENTO SEA EMITIDO, USTED PUEDE PERDER EL DERECHO A RECLAMAR CUALQUIERA DE ELLOS.

USTED DEBE LLEVAR ESTE PAPEL A UN ABOGADO DE INMEDIATO. SI NO TIENE RECURSOS PARA PAGAR UN ABOGADO VAYA O LLAME A LA OFICINA INDICADA ABAJO PARA AVERIGUAR DONDE PUEDE OBTENER ASISTENCIA LEGAL.

Lawyer Referral Service of the  
York County Bar Association  
York County Bar Center  
137 East Market Street  
York, Pennsylvania 17401  
Teléfono (717) 854-8755

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
FAMILY LAW DIVISION**

PLAINTIFF (Your Name)	:	No. _____ -FC- _____ -02
vs.	:	<b>ACTION IN DIVORCE</b>
DEFENDANT (Your Spouse's Name)	:	<b>CIVIL ACTION – LAW</b>

**COMPLAINT UNDER § 3301(d) OF THE DIVORCE CODE**

1. Plaintiff is \_\_\_\_\_, who currently resides at  
 (Your Complete Name)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ County  
 (Street Address) (City) (Name of County)  
 Pennsylvania, \_\_\_\_\_ since \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Zip Code) (Date Moved to Current Address)
  
2. Defendant is \_\_\_\_\_, who currently resides at  
 (Complete Name of Spouse)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ County  
 (Street Address) (City) (Name of County)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ since \_\_\_\_\_  
 (State) (Zip Code) (Date Moved to Current Address)
  
3. Plaintiff has been a bona fide resident in the Commonwealth for at least six months immediately previous to the filing of this Complaint.
  
4. The Plaintiff and Defendant were married on \_\_\_\_\_, at  
 (Date of Marriage)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (City) State Foreign Country (if applicable) where marriage took place
  
5. There have been no prior actions of divorce or for annulment between the parties except  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Docket Number of Prior Divorce / Annulment Action, and Place of Filing of Prior Divorce / Annulment Action)



6. Defendant **is not** a member of the Armed Forces of the United States of America or any of its Allies.
7. This marriage is irretrievably broken.
8. The parties to this action separated on \_\_\_\_\_ and have  
(Date of Separation)  
continued to live separate and apart for at least two (2) years.
9. Plaintiff has been advised that counseling is available and that Plaintiff may have the right to request that the court require the parties to participate in counseling.
10. Plaintiff requests the court to enter a decree of divorce.

I verify that the statements made in this Complaint are true and correct. I understand that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. §4904, relating to unsworn falsifications to authorities.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Plaintiff

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
FAMILY LAW DIVISION**

PLAINTIFF	:	No. _____-FC-_____ -02
vs.	:	ACTION IN DIVORCE
DEFENDANT	:	CIVIL ACTION – LAW

**NOTICE**

If you wish to deny any of the statements set forth in this affidavit, you must file a counter-affidavit within twenty (20) days after this affidavit has been served on you or the statements will be admitted.

**AFFIDAVIT OF SEPARATION UNDER SECTION 3301(d) OF THE DIVORCE CODE**

1. The parties to this action separated on \_\_\_\_\_ and have continued  
(Date of Separation)  
to live separate and apart for a period of at least two (2) years.
2. The marriage is irretrievably broken.
3. I understand that I may lose rights concerning alimony, division of property, lawyer's fees, or expenses if I do not claim them before a divorce is granted.

I verify that the statements made in this Affidavit are true and correct. I understand that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. §4904, relating to unsworn falsifications to authorities.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**SOCIAL SECURITY INFORMATION SHEET**

PURSUANT TO 23 Pa.C.S.A. SECTION 4304.1 (a) (3) ALL DIVORCES MUST INCLUDE THE PARTIES' SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS.

PLEASE FILL IN THE APPROPRIATE INFORMATION AND RETURN TO THE PROTHONOTARY'S OFFICE.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DOCKET NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

PLAINTIFF / PETITIONER'S SS#: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DEFENDANT / RESPONDENT'S SS# \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**DIVORCE INFORMATION SHEET**

PURSUANT TO ACT 2001-82, VITAL STATISTIC FORMS ARE NOT REQUIRED BY THE STATE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2002. THE PROTHONOTARY IS REQUESTING THIS INFORMATION IN LIEU OF THE VITAL STATISTICS FORM.

PLEASE FILL IN THE APPROPRIATE INFORMATION AND RETURN TO THE PROTHONOTARY'S OFFICE.

DOCKET NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

PLAINTIFF'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DEFENDANT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF MARRIAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF DECREE: \_\_\_\_\_

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
FAMILY LAW DIVISION**

<p style="text-align: center;">PLAINTIFF</p>	:	No. _____-FC- _____-02
vs.	:	ACTION IN DIVORCE
<p style="text-align: center;">DEFENDANT</p>	:	CIVIL ACTION – LAW

**ACCEPTANCE OF SERVICE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, accept service of the  
(Name of Defendant)

Divorce Complaint and the Affidavit of Separation filed on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Date of Filing)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Receipt

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Defendant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address of Defendant

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State and Zip Code

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA	:	SS
	:	
COUNTY OF YORK	:	

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, before me, the undersigned officer, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_ known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within document, and acknowledged that he/she executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
FAMILY LAW DIVISION**

PLAINTIFF	:	No. _____-FC-_____ -02
vs.	:	ACTION IN DIVORCE
DEFENDANT	:	CIVIL ACTION – LAW

**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby verify that  
(Name of Plaintiff)

on \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, Defendant was served with a true and correct copy  
(Date) (Month)

of the Divorce Complaint and Affidavit of Separation by the following method:

Service was made by **United States Postal Service**, first class mail, postage prepaid, certified, **restricted delivery**, return receipt requested to the Defendant, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_. The return receipt (postal green card)  
(Date) (Month)  
signed by **Defendant** and the receipt from the Post Office are attached hereto.

I verify that the statements made in this Affidavit are true and correct. I understand that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. §4904, relating to unsworn falsifications to authorities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Plaintiff

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
FAMILY LAW DIVISION**

	:	No. _____-FC-_____ -02
PLAINTIFF	:	
vs.	:	ACTION IN DIVORCE
	:	
	:	CIVIL ACTION – LAW
DEFENDANT		

**AFFIDAVIT OF PERSONAL SERVICE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby verify that  
(Name of Person who Served Divorce Complaint and Affidavit of Separation)

on \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, Defendant was served with a true and correct copy  
(Date) (Month)

of the Divorce Complaint and Affidavit of Separation by the following method:

The Defendant was personally served with a true and correct copy of the above pleading by hand-delivering the same to the Defendant by **someone other than the Plaintiff**. Personal service was made at the following location and time:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Location of Service)

on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock.  
(Date) (Month) (Time)

**(PERSONAL SERVICE CAN NOT BE MADE BY PLAINTIFF)**

I verify that the statements made in this Affidavit are true and correct. I understand that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. §4904, relating to unsworn falsifications to authorities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Person Who Made Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
FAMILY LAW DIVISION**

PLAINTIFF	:	No. _____-FC-_____ -02
vs.	:	ACTION IN DIVORCE
DEFENDANT	:	CIVIL ACTION – LAW

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REQUEST ENTRY OF §3301(d) DIVORCE DECREE  
TO: DEFENDANT**

You have been sued in an action for divorce. You have failed to answer the Complaint or file a Counter-Affidavit to the § 3301(d) Affidavit. Therefore, on or after \_\_\_\_\_ the other party can request  
(Date Which is At Least Twenty Days From Date of Service of this Notice)

the court to enter a final Decree in Divorce.

If you do not file with the Prothonotary of the court an Answer with your signature notarized or verified or a Counter-Affidavit by the above date, the court can enter a final Decree in Divorce. A Counter-Affidavit, which you may file with the Prothonotary of the court, is attached to this notice.

Unless you have already filed with the court a written claim for economic relief, you must do so by the above date or the court may grant the divorce and you will lose forever the right to ask for economic relief. The filing of the form Counter-Affidavit alone does not protect your economic claims.

**YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW. THIS OFFICE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT HIRING A LAWYER. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE A LAWYER, THIS OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AGENCIES THAT MAY OFFER LEGAL SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS AT A REDUCED FEE OR NO FEE.**

Lawyer Referral Service of the  
York County Bar Association  
York County Bar Center  
137 East Market Street  
York, Pennsylvania 17401  
Telephone (717) 854-8755



**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

\_\_\_\_\_  
PLAINTIFF  
vs.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DEFENDANT

: No. \_\_\_\_\_-FC-\_\_\_\_\_02  
:  
: ACTION IN DIVORCE  
:  
: CIVIL ACTION - LAW

**COUNTER-AFFIDAVIT UNDER § 3301(d) OF THE DIVORCE CODE**

1. Check either (a) or (b):

- (a) I do not oppose the entry of a divorce decree.
- (b) I oppose the entry of a divorce decree because (**Check (i), (ii), or both**):
- (i) The parties to this action have not lived separate and apart for a period of at least two years.
- (ii) The marriage is not irretrievably broken.

2. Check either (a) or (b):

- (a) I do not wish to make any claims for economic relief. I understand that I may lose rights concerning alimony, division of property, lawyer's fees or expenses if I do not claim them before a divorce is granted.
- (b) I wish to claim economic relief which may include alimony, division of property, lawyer's fees or expenses or other important rights.

**I understand that in addition to checking (b) above, I must also file all of my economic claims with the prothonotary in writing and serve them on the other party. If I fail to do so before the date set forth on the Notice of Intention to Request Divorce Decree, the divorce decree may be entered without further notice to me, and I shall be unable thereafter to file any economic claims.**

I verify that the statements made in this counter-affidavit are true and correct. I understand that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Defendant \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE: If you do not wish to oppose the entry of a divorce decree and you do not wish to make any claim for economic relief, you should not file this counter-affidavit.**

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

:

SS

COUNTY OF YORK

:

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, before me, the undersigned officer, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_ known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within document, and acknowledged that he/she executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
FAMILY LAW DIVISION**

PLAINTIFF	:	No. _____ -FC- _____ -02
vs.	:	ACTION IN DIVORCE
DEFENDANT	:	CIVIL ACTION – LAW

**ACCEPTANCE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SERVICE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Defendant in the above  
(Name of Defendant)

captioned proceeding accept and acknowledge service of the Notice of Intention to Request entry of §3301(d) Divorce Decree and Counter-Affidavit.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Defendant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State and Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

:

SS

COUNTY OF YORK

:

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, before me, the undersigned officer, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_ known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within document, and acknowledged that he/she executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
FAMILY LAW DIVISION**

PLAINTIFF	:	No. _____ -FC- _____ -02
vs.	:	ACTION IN DIVORCE
DEFENDANT	:	CIVIL ACTION – LAW

**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY FIRST CLASS MAIL**

The undersigned hereby certifies that on this date, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Intention to Request Entry of Divorce Decree and Counter-Affidavit was served by first class U.S. mail to the following:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State and Zip Code

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State and Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
FAMILY LAW DIVISION**

PLAINTIFF	:	No. _____-FC-_____ -02
vs.	:	ACTION IN DIVORCE
DEFENDANT	:	CIVIL ACTION – LAW

**AFFIDAVIT OF PERSONAL SERVICE OF NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REQUEST ENTRY  
OF § 3301(d) DIVORCE DECREE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Name of the Person who Served Notice of Intention to Request Entry of §3301(d) Divorce Decree)  
hereby verify that on \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, I served the Defendant with a  
(Date) (Month)  
true and correct copy of the Notice of Intention to Request Entry of §3301(d) Divorce Decree and  
Counter Affidavit.

I verify that the statements made in this Affidavit are true and correct. I understand that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Person Who Made Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
FAMILY LAW DIVISION**

PLAINTIFF	:	No. _____-FC-_____ -02
vs.	:	
	:	<b>ACTION IN DIVORCE</b>
	:	
DEFENDANT	:	<b>CIVIL ACTION – LAW</b>

**PRAECIPE TO TRANSMIT RECORD**

To the Prothonotary:

Transmit the record, together with the following information, to the court for entry of a Divorce Decree:

1. Ground for divorce: ir retrievable breakdown under §3301(d) of the Divorce Code.
2. Date and manner of service of Complaint: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date of Service)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(State Whether Complaint Was Served By Certified Mail / Personal Service By Someone Other Than Plaintiff Or by Sherriff)
3. Date of execution of the Affidavit of Separation required by §3301(d) of the Divorce Code:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date of execution of Affidavit of Separation)
4. Date of filing and service of the Plaintiff's Affidavit of Separation upon the Defendant:  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date of Filing of Affidavit of Separation) (Date of Service of Affidavit of Separation)
5. Related claims pending: No economic claims were raised by either party.
6. Date and manner of service of the Notice of Intention to Request Divorce Decree:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date of Service)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Manner of Service of Notice of Intention to Request Divorce Decree)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Plaintiff

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of the Plaintiff

# OFFICE OF THE PROTHONOTARY

Of York County

**Pamela S. Lee**  
Prothonotary  
**Billie Jo Bones**  
Deputy Prothonotary  
**Gregory E. Gettle**  
Solicitor



York County Courthouse  
45 North George Street  
York, Pennsylvania 17401  
Telephone (717) 771-9611

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

No: \_\_\_\_\_

RE: \_\_\_\_\_, Plaintiff

VS: \_\_\_\_\_, Defendant

Notice is given that a Decree in Divorce in the above captioned matter has  
been entered against you on \_\_\_\_\_.

**Pamela S. Lee**

PROTHONOTARY OF YORK COUNTY

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk or Deputy

If you have any questions concerning the above case, please contact:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney or Filing Party

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

( PA Rule of Civil Procedure 236, as revised )

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
FAMILY LAW DIVISION**

	:	No. _____-FC-_____ -02
PLAINTIFF	:	
vs.	:	<b>ACTION IN DIVORCE</b>
	:	
	:	<b>CIVIL ACTION – LAW</b>
DEFENDANT		

**NOTICE TO RESUME PRIOR SURNAME**

Notice is hereby given that the  Plaintiff /  Defendant in the above matter, {select one by marking "X"}

or   
 prior to the entry of a Final Decree in Divorce,  
after the entry of a Final Decree in Divorce dated \_\_\_\_\_.

hereby elects to resume the prior surname of \_\_\_\_\_,  
and gives this written notice avowing his/her intention pursuant to the provision of 54 P.S. 704.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of name being resumed

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

COUNTY OF YORK

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, before me, the Prothonotary or a Notary Public, personally appeared the above affiant known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within document, and acknowledged that he/she executed the foregoing for the purpose therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Prothonotary or Notary Public