Packet 4

Divorce (No Minor Children)

Forms and Procedures

For Wyoming

DEFENDANT

2011

Published by
Citizens Access to Courts Committee
c/o Wyoming Supreme Court
2301 Capitol Avenue
Supreme Court Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002

<u>LIST OF FORMS – PACKET 4</u> DEFENDANT DIVORCE (NO MINOR CHILDREN)

- 1. List of Forms
- 2. Overview
- 3. Family Law Information and Instructions
- 4. Checklist
- 5. Answer to Complaint for Divorce
- 6. Answer and Counterclaim to Complaint for Divorce
- 7. Initial Disclosures
- 8. Request for Setting
- 9. Order Setting Divorce Trial and Requiring Pretrial Memorandums
- 10. Pretrial Disclosures

*All underlined forms are required in a divorce with children action where the parties agree on all of the issues. The rest of the documents required to be filed with the Clerk to complete the divorce action are contained in the Plaintiff's Packet. It is recommended that you work with the Plaintiff to ensure all necessary forms are filled out correctly and completely. You will also need to sign the *Decree of Divorce* that is contained in the Plaintiff's Packet before your divorce can be completed if you agree on all of the issues.

**Other forms may be required by your Court.

OVERVIEW

People who appear for themselves without an attorney are considered to be "selfrepresented" and are also known as "pro se" litigants. This packet is often referred to as the "pro se divorce packet." Although there has been a recent surge of pro se litigation in our courts, there are additional barriers that people without an attorney will inevitably face, especially in the area of family law/domestic relations. The difficulties increase when there are children, disagreements about property, financial interests, violence, harassment or coercion. Many areas of family law are very diverse and complicated, and some courts in the State of Wyoming require certain things that others courts do not. That is why it is impractical to include all legal remedies available to people in a divorce action in a single packet. Therefore, this packet will be most beneficial for people involved in an uncontested divorce (i.e., vou both agree on the issues). There are other remedies available, including temporary orders on child custody, support, alimony and restraining orders that are not included in this packet and may be best pursued with the assistance of an attorney. The Citizen's Access to Courts Committee is aware of the barriers that exist for low income people in our legal system and have created the forms in a manner that they believe will benefit the majority of people who represent themselves while also understanding that people with complex or emergency circumstances may continue to find themselves better served by getting an attorney. We hope you find this packet and the resources that it contains helpful.

DOMESTIC/FAMILY VIOLENCE:

If you or your children have been a victim of family (domestic) violence, there are concerns above and beyond the normal concerns. It is recommended that you obtain a lawyer to help you. There may be assistance available even if you cannot afford an attorney. Contact the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (1-800-990-3877), Wyoming Legal Services (1-800-442-6170) or the Wyoming State Bar (1-307-632-9061) www.wyomingbar.org. If you have concerns about confidential information such as addresses and/or social security numbers, please consult an attorney and do not attempt to do this on your own. You should also know that Protection Orders and Stalking Orders are available free of charge at the circuit court clerk's office. Please call the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault for assistance in obtaining domestic violence protection or stalking orders (1-800-990-3877). If you have ever obtained a protection order involving your spouse, you should include this information in the *Complaint* or *Counterclaim* under the "Other Proceedings" section.

- This information packet is intended to provide general information to help you complete the forms and to take the steps the law requires for you to obtain a divorce. There is no guarantee these forms are still accurate and/or current. The information in this packet is not intended to replace an attorney.
- If you represent yourself, YOU PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK. You must decide which forms apply to your situation.
- DO NOT USE each and every form, as some forms say opposite things.
- For each form you decide to use, make sure you fill it out completely and correctly.

Overview: Divorce (No Minor Children)

Revised August 2011

• NO ONE in the judge's office or the clerk of court's office can help complete these forms. Questions or problems may require the help of an attorney.

Where you are requested to provide additional information, use the blank spaces by either typing or printing with black ink. You must print clearly. If the judge cannot read what you write, the judge will return the documents. DO NOT SIGN YOUR NAME WHERE THE JUDGE OR CLERK SHOULD SIGN.

LAWS: IF YOU DO THIS YOURSELF, you must follow the law as if you were a lawyer. It is your responsibility to properly prepare and file the necessary documents. The judge will not sign orders or decrees that are incorrect or incomplete, nor will the judge give you legal advice or make corrections for you.

You should read Title 20 of the Wyoming Revised Statutes (the divorce laws), and you should also read the Wyoming Rules of Civil Procedure (W.R.C.P.). Most of the District Courts in the State of Wyoming have a courthouse library or county library where these law books can be read. You may also look up these law books on the internet at: www.courts.state.wy.us and clicking on "law library". Some courts have special forms they want you to use in addition to the forms contained in this packet.

Clerks Cannot Help You Fill Out the Forms. Employees in the clerk of district court's office and in the office of the district judge cannot help you or advise you; if you represent yourself, you are on your own.

The Judge Cannot Talk to You, Answer Your Questions or Assist You. The judge cannot give you legal advice or make corrections for you. DO NOT contact the judge by personal letter or otherwise. All communications with the court must be during hearings or other proceedings at which all parties are present or through the legal documents you file.

Situations that Warrant an Attorney. Federal law may impact your division of retirement benefits, your provisions regarding employer-provided health insurance, or your provisions regarding other benefits which arise out of the employment of either party and your settlement terms may not be honored by the employer or the plan administrator of the employee benefits plan if your divorce decree is not properly completed. In addition, in the division or retirement benefits, there may be tax consequences which you may not anticipate. If your divorce involves issues like these, see an attorney to discuss tax consequences or the terms of a "qualified domestic relations order" (QDRO), or, if dealing with insurance issues, a "qualified medical child support order". In addition to the above situations, you should consult an attorney if:

- You are a victim of domestic/family violence. (See Family Violence Box)
- The other party hires an attorney
- You or the other party are contemplating filing bankruptcy
- You or the other party expect to receive money because of a personal injury
- You or the other party own a business

Overview: Divorce (No Minor Children)

• You or the other party have significant assets or debts

Truthfulness. It is absolutely essential that you be completely honest and accurate in completing all forms. There are penalties for attempting to mislead the court. You should read Wyoming Rule of Civil Procedure, Rule 11 (representations to the court) and Wyoming Statute § 6-5-301 (perjury).

Unauthorized Practice of Law Notice. The purpose of this packet is to assist those persons who are doing <u>their own</u> divorce. It may be an unauthorized practice of law for a person who is not a licensed attorney to assist others in obtaining a divorce. Such practice could subject a guilty party to punishment for contempt of court.

You are reminded that, if you choose to continue without an attorney, you are expected to know what to do and how to do it. The Wyoming Supreme Court has said: "A pro se litigant (one without an attorney) will be granted no greater right than any other litigant and he must expect and receive...the same treatment as if represented by an attorney..." In other words, if you do not have an attorney you will be held to the same standards as a person with an attorney.

Overview: Divorce (No Minor Children) Revised August 2011

Page 3 of 3

FAMILY LAW INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

CONFIDENTIALITY: If you have concerns about confidential information such as addresses and/or social security numbers, please consult an attorney and do not attempt to do this on your own. You should also know that Domestic Violence Protection Orders or Stalking Orders are available free of charge at the circuit Court Clerks' offices. You may request assistance in obtaining Domestic Violence Protection or Stalking Orders from your local domestic violence or sexual assault program or you may call the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (1-800-990-3877). There are also private attorneys that are willing to assist clients in these matters. If you have ever obtained a Domestic Violence Protection Order, this information should be indicated in the *Complaint for Divorce* or the *Counterclaim*. A Domestic Violence Protection Order generally will be in effect for up to three (3) months and any provision included in that order (such as child custody and/or support) will end when the order expires.

Read through the following information and instructions before completing the forms.

Information:

A divorce action starts with the filing of the *Complaint for Divorce*. A *Complaint for Divorce* is a written request to the court for a divorce. The person who originally asks for this legal action is called the **plaintiff** and remains the plaintiff throughout the case. The plaintiff will file the *Complaint for Divorce* with the **Clerk of the District Court**, whose office is usually located in the county courthouse or a branch of the county courthouse. A case number, also called a **civil action number**, is assigned and an official court file is opened. Delivering the *Complaint for Divorce* to the Clerk's office is called **filing** a case.

Case Number: When you start a lawsuit by filing the paperwork with the Clerk of the District Court, a case number will be assigned by the Clerk. You must include that case number on all further paperwork in the "<u>caption</u>". The caption is the top section of a pleading, motion, and complaint stating the name of the plaintiff, defendant, the District Court the case is filed in and the case number.

Once a case has been filed, a copy must be formally given to (a/k/a served on) the defendant. The person against whom the original legal action is being requested is called the defendant, and he or she is expected to answer the Complaint for Divorce. The defendant remains the defendant throughout the case. Personal service of the Complaint for Divorce and Summons on the defendant by a sheriff is required for the Complaint for Divorce unless the defendant completes an Acknowledgment and Acceptance of Service form. Formal service is required for the Complaint for Divorce so the Court has proof that the defendant actually received the papers. Other forms of service exist, but these are the easiest methods that meet the formal service requirement for a Complaint for Divorce.

Instructions:

STEP 1. Answer or Answer and Counterclaim.

Two options exist – you may either Answer the *Complaint for Divorce* or file an *Answer and Counterclaim*. Both options are explained below:

OPTION A. Answer to Complaint for Divorce. If you have been served or have signed an Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Service form, you should file an Answer to Complaint for Divorce with the Clerk of District Court where the Complaint for Divorce was filed. An Answer to Complaint for Divorce is a written document explaining to the court exactly which provisions you agree with and which provisions you deny. If you fail to answer, a default judgment may be entered against you and your spouse may be entitled the relief he or she asked for in the Complaint for Divorce.

You must fill in the caption. DO NOT forget to include the case number. This is located in the caption of the *Summons* and/or *Complaint for Divorce*.

- i. Admit or Deny. To answer the papers, you should go through each and every paragraph of the *Complaint for Divorce* and either "admit" or "deny" each paragraph. If you do not have sufficient information to either admit or deny a particular allegation, you must state that in your *Answer to Complaint for Divorce*. If you disagree with something and you fail to "deny" it in your *Answer to Complaint for Divorce*, the Judge can find that you admitted it.
- ii. <u>Time limit to answer.</u> <u>You have only a limited amount of time to file an Answer to Complaint for Divorce.</u> Generally, if you were served within the State of Wyoming, you will have 20 days to file the Answer to Complaint for Divorce. If you were served outside the State of Wyoming, you generally will have 30 days to file an Answer to Complaint for Divorce by your deadline, then your spouse may obtain a Decree of Divorce giving him/her everything he/she requested in the Complaint for Divorce.
- iii. <u>Computation of Time Limits</u>. In computing most time limits, unless otherwise stated, the day the pleading is served shall not be included. The last day of the period so computed shall be included, unless it is a Saturday, a Sunday, or a legal holiday, or, when the act to be done is the filing of a paper, a day on which weather or other conditions have made the office of the clerk of the court inaccessible, in which event the period runs until the end of the next day which is not one of the aforementioned days. When the period of time prescribed or allowed is less than 11 days, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays shall be excluded in the computation. A "legal holiday" includes any day officially recognized as a legal holiday in this state by designation of the legislature or appointment as a holiday by the governor.

NOTE: If you have any question or concerns as to when the deadline to file the *Answer to Complaint for Divorce* is, you should consult an attorney.

- iv. <u>Certificate of Service</u>: Copies of all documents sent to or filed with the court must be sent to the plaintiff before the judge will consider them. This is certificate is included at the end of each document that requires it.
- v. <u>Copies.</u> Make two (2) copies of the document. The original will be filed by the Clerk of District Court, one copy is for the plaintiff and the other copy is for you (the defendant). You will need to repeat this step for all documents you file with the Clerk's office.

OR

- **OPTION B.** Answer and Counterclaim for Divorce. If you want the Judge to grant relief to you (for example, give you the divorce, award property to you, order your spouse to pay alimony, take your previous last name back, etc.) you should file an Answer and Counterclaim for Divorce responds to the Complaint for Divorce and gives you an opportunity to tell the court what you want to happen with the divorce. First, you will go through each and every paragraph of the Complaint for Divorce and either "admit" or "deny" each paragraph. Second, the Counterclaim for Divorce portion of the document asks the Judge to give you what you want. You must fill out all of the information in the Answer and Counterclaim for Divorce completely.
 - i <u>Restoration of Wife's previous name</u>: The wife should state whether or not she would like to resume her prior name in either the *Complaint for Divorce* if she is the plaintiff, or a *Counterclaim* if she is the defendant. This is the wife's choice ONLY; the husband cannot demand that his wife's name be changed.
 - ii. Follow **Step A(ii)** through **Step A(v)** above.

NOTE: If you have any question or concerns as to when the deadline to file the *Answer and Counterclaim for Complaint for Divorce* is, you should consult an attorney.

- C. <u>Plaintiff's Reply to Your Counterclaim.</u> The plaintiff must reply to the *Counterclaim*. If you file a *Counterclaim*, the plaintiff will have 20 days to "reply" by filing a *Reply to Counterclaim*. The plaintiff will either admit or deny the separate allegations in your *Counterclaim*. If the plaintiff fails to reply to the *Counterclaim*, you may be entitled to file *Default* paperwork seeking the relief you request in your *Counterclaim*. The *Default* paperwork is contained in a separate packet available on the self-help website or from the Clerk of District Court's office.
- **STEP 2. Initial Disclosures.** The law requires certain information be made available at least thirty (30) days after the defendant is served, including a schedule of financial assets; schedule of non-financial assets; schedule of all debts owed individually or jointly;

location(s) of safety deposit box(es); employment information; and information regarding other income and retirement accounts.

EXCEPTON: If you and the plaintiff agree on all issues in your divorce and you both are signing the *Decree of Divorce*, then you do NOT need to complete the *Initial Disclosures* and you can move on to Step 3.

- A. <u>WHEN TO SERVE</u>: Initial Disclosures must be sent to the plaintiff (or his/her attorney) WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER YOU ARE SERVED. **Be sure to keep a copy of this document for your records.**
- B. **DO NOT FILE THE INITIAL DISCLOSURES WITH THE CLERK**. This form is only given to the plaintiff (or his/her attorney).
- **STEP 3.** If you and the plaintiff agree on all of the terms in the *Decree of Divorce*, sign both documents in front of a notary public. The *Decree of Divorce* will need to be filled out completely, signed by you and the plaintiff and both of your signatures need to be notarized.
- When will your divorce become final? Your divorce will not be final until the judge signs the *Decree of Divorce* and it is filed with the Clerk of Court. It may take several days for the judge to sign the *Decree of Divorce*. You must verify with the Clerk's office that the *Decree of Divorce* has been file-stamped before you can be sure your divorce is final. The time limit to appeal a decree begins to run from the day the *Decree of Divorce* is filed with the Clerk's office.

STEP 4. <u>If you and the plaintiff do NOT agree on all issues of your</u> divorce, you will need to have a trial:

- A. <u>Trial</u>. If you and the plaintiff cannot agree on all issues, your case will have to be heard and decided by a Judge at a trial.
 - <u>Caution</u>: It is strongly recommended that you hire or find an attorney to represent you at trial, though you may represent yourself. You proceed at your own risk and will be expected to know the laws.
- B. Request a trial date. If the plaintiff has NOT done so, you will need to request a hearing by completing a *Request for Setting*. Write in "trial" where it asks the type of hearing. Indicate how much time you think it will take for you and the other party to present your evidence and write that in (usually one (1) to three (3) hours). You also need to decide whether or not you want a Court reporter to record the proceeding. If you request a Court reporter, you will be responsible for paying the fees. SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS ON GETTING A COURT REPORTER. If a hearing is not recorded by an official court reporter, a transcript of the hearing will not be available. It is very difficult to appeal the Judge's decision if you do not get a Court reporter to take down everything that is said at the trial.

You must file the *Request for Setting* and the *Order Setting Divorce Trial and Requesting Pretrial Statements* with the Clerk's office and someone there will fill in the hearing date and time and mail a copy to you and the other party. You will need to provide an addressed, stamped envelope for you and the plaintiff to the Clerk.

Once a trial date has been set, do the following:

- D. <u>Pretrial Disclosures</u>. Both parties must provide to other party AND PROMPTLY FILE WITH THE COURT the *Pretrial Disclosures* regarding the evidence that it may present at trial. If you have questions, you should contact an attorney.
 - ➤ When are the *Pretrial Disclosures* due? Unless otherwise directed by the Court, these disclosures must be made at least <u>30 days before trial</u>.
 - Take the original and two (2) copies to the Clerk for filing. Keep one copy for your records and send the other copy to the plaintiff (or his/her attorney).
- <u>Settlement before trial.</u> In the event that your case settles before the trial, you must present the Court with the completed and signed *Decree of Divorce*) in writing before the Court will take the trial off of the schedule. There will be no continuances or canceling of the trial date based on telephone calls. If you need a continuance, you should contact an attorney for assistance in seeking one.
- <u>Court reporter.</u> If you wish to have a Court reporter you are required to provide notice to the official Court reporter at least **three** (3) <u>working days</u> before the matter is set for hearing. The three-day notice requirement will not be waived by the Court. The notice is required for all civil matters including jury trials. Payment of the **statutory reporting fee of** \$45.00 per day must be paid to the official Court reporter prior to the commencement of the hearing/trial. Checks for the statutory reporting fee shall be made payable to the Wyoming State Treasurer.
- Evidence and witnesses. At the hearing, you will need to present your evidence and witnesses. If the *Order Setting Divorce Trial and Requesting Pretrial Statements* is entered (signed by the Judge), you must follow the terms and provide the Court with the information requested in that document, including copies of exhibits you want to introduce at the trial and a list of your proposed witnesses and what their testimony is going to be about within the time frame ordered (usually 3 to 5 days prior to the trial). Under the law, the Judge cannot help you or assist you at trial. You are on your own without an attorney.
- <u>Final Decision (Decree of Divorce)</u>. Following the trial, the Judge will make a decision or may take the matter under advisement, meaning he or she will need to think further before making a determination. If the Judge instructs you, you must take that decision and type it into the *Decree of Divorce* incorporating the Judge's decision.

- > You are again reminded that, if you choose to continue without an attorney, you are expected to know what to do and how to do it. The judge will not guide you through the trial/hearing, tell you how to proceed or advise you on the law.
- When will your divorce become final? Your divorce will not be final until the judge signs the *Decree of Divorce* and it is filed with the Clerk of Court. It may take several days for the judge to sign the *Decree of Divorce*. You must verify with the Clerk's office that the *Decree of Divorce* has been file-stamped before you can be sure your divorce is final. The time limit to appeal a decree begins to run from the day the *Decree of Divorce* is filed with the Clerk's office.

RECAP for Defendant's Documents:

- 1. File an *Answer* or *Answer and Counterclaim* within 20 days from the date you were served (or 30 days if served out of state)
 - Mail a copy to the plaintiff and keep a copy for your records
- 2. Complete the *Initial Disclosures* form and send to plaintiff within 30 days of being served with the *Complaint* **UNLESS** you both agree on all issues. If you agree on all issues of your divorce, you do not need to complete the *Initial Disclosures* form and you can move on to Step 3 below.
- 3. Assist the plaintiff in filling out the $Decree\ of\ Divorce\$ if you both agree on all of the terms.

Sign the Decree of Divorce in front of a notary public.

- 4. If you and the plaintiff do NOT agree on all of the terms, and a trial is needed, follow these steps:
 - a. File a Request for Setting and Order Setting Divorce Trial and Requiring Pretrial Statements ONLY if the plaintiff has NOT done so.
 - b. Take an original and two (2) copies of the *Order Setting Divorce Trial and Requiring Pretrial Statements* for filing with the Clerk and two (2) addressed, stamped envelopes (one addressed to you and one to the plaintiff with enough postage to cover the cost of mailing the *Order Setting Divorce Trial and Requiring Pretrial Statements* to you and the defendant).
 - c. File your *Pretrial Disclosures* **30 days** before the trial date.
 - Mail a copy to the plaintiff and keep a copy for your records (do not file with the Court)
 - d. At least 3 working days before the trial, request a court report, if desired (and if the plaintiff has not done so).
 - e. Attend the Trial
 - f. Complete and file any additional documents required by your Court.

Your divorce is final when the Decree of Divorce has been signed by the Judge and filed by the Clerk.

CHECKLIST FOR PACKET 4 DEFENDANT DIVORCE (NO MINOR CHILDREN)

This form is required in all divorce cases where you and the plaintiff agree on all of the issues:

Answer

You will also need to work with the plaintiff to complete the *Decree of Divorce* and sign it in front of a notary public.

it in front of a notary public.			
if you signed a	ou were served with a copy of the <i>Summons</i> and <i>Complaint for Divorce</i> or an <i>Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Service</i> , file one of the following: swer; <i>OR</i> swer and Counterclaim Take an original and 2 copies of the <i>Answer</i> or <i>Answer and Counterclaim</i> to the Clerk for filing Mail a copy to the plaintiff and keep a copy for your records.		
STEP 2. Con	Send the <i>Initial Disclosures</i> Send the <i>Initial Disclosures</i> to the plaintiff within 30 days after you were personally served by the Sheriff or signed the Acknowledgment and Acceptance of Service form. DO NOT FILE the <i>Initial Disclosures</i> with the Court. Exception: If you and the plaintiff agree on all issues in your divorce and		
	you both are signing the <i>Decree of Divorce</i> , then you do NOT need to complete the <i>Initial Disclosures</i> and you can move on to Step 4 .		
	ou and the plaintiff agree on all of the terms in the <i>Decree of Divorce</i> , sign notary public. Sign the <i>Decree of Divorce</i> A copy will be mailed to you if the Judge signs the <i>Decree of Divorce</i> .		
Your divorce will be complete when the Judge signs the <i>Decree of Divorce</i> and it is filed with the Clerk.			
STEP 4. If you and the plaintiff do NOT agree on all of the issues of your divorce, fill out and file the following forms and attend the trial to finish your Divorce:			
*Caution: It is strongly recommended that you hire or find an attorney to represent you at trial, even though you may represent yourself. You proceed at your own risk and will be expected to know the rules and laws.			
	If the plaintiff has NOT requested, a trial date, you must request one. Request for Setting Order Setting Divorce Trial and Requesting Pretrial Statements (Judge will fill out date and time)		
Cl 1-1: - 4 C D	Lat 1		

	 Take original and two copies to the Clerk for filling. Take an envelope addressed to you with postage for the Clerk to mail a copy of the Order Setting Divorce Trial and Requesting
	Pretrial Statements to you. Take an envelope addressed to the defendant with postage for the Clerk to mail a copy of the Order Setting Divorce Trial and Requesting Pretrial Statements to the defendant.
	Mail a copy of the <i>Request for Setting</i> to the plaintiff and keep a copy for your records.
Once a trial d	ate has been set, do the following:
	Pretrial Disclosures and Pretrial Memorandum File at least 30 days before the trial date Take original and two copies to the Clerk for filing Mail copy to the plaintiff and keep a copy for your records At least 3 working days before the trial, request a court reporter, if desired (and if the plaintiff has not done so). Attend the Trial: Present your evidence and witnesses. Additional Forms: The Court may also require additional forms depending on the county where your case is filed. Ask the Clerk if any additional forms are required. Copies and Envelopes for each additional form: Take an original and 2 copies of each additional form to the Clerk for filing. Mail a copy of any additional form filed with the Clerk to the plaintiff and keep a copy for your records.

Your divorce will be complete when the Judge signs the *Decree of Divorce* and it is filed with the Clerk.

STATE OF WYOMING)	IN THE DISTRICT COUR		
COUNTY OF) ss)	JUDICIAL DISTRICT		
Plaintiff:(Print name of person filing)	,)	Civil Action Case No		
vs.)			
Defendant:(Spouse) (Print name))			
ANS	WER TO CO	OMPLAINT		
Defendant admits the allegation of Plaintiff's Complaint for Divorce	ns in Paragrap	(list paragraphs that are accurate statements)		
2. Defendant denies the allegation of Plaintiff's <i>Complaint for Divorc</i>	is in Paragrap e .	(list paragraphs that you believe are not accurate)		
Defendant does not have inform Paragraphs		ent to either admit or deny the allegations		
WHEREFORE, Defendan	t respectfully	requests that the court find generally in		
her/his favor and against the Pla	intiff, that P	Plaintiff take nothing by way of his/her		
Complaint for Divorce, and for su proper.	ch other and	further relief as the court deems just and		
	of	, 20		
	Pri	nature nted Name: dress:		
	Pho	one:		

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

(date) the original of this document
rue and accurate copy of this document
y OR Faxed to this number
ted States mail, postage pre-paid, and
ldress)
_
_
Your signature
Print name
Time name
applicable
Uniform Rules of District Court the ion of this pleading but said attorney is smatter:
1 S

STATE OF WYOMING)	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF) ss)	JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Plaintiff:(Print name of person filing)	,)	Civil Action Case No
vs.)	
Defendant:(Spouse) (Print name))))
ANSWER AND COUN	TERCLA	IM TO COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE
The Defendant sets forth	the follow	wing as the answers and responses to Plaintiff's
Complaint for Divorce:		
1. Defendant admits the allegation of Plaintiff's <i>Complaint for Divorce</i>		(list paragraphs that are accurate statements)
2. Defendant denies the allegation of Plaintiff's Complaint for Divorce		raphs (list paragraphs that you believe are not accurate)
3. Defendant does not have informargraphs		afficient to either admit or deny the allegations in
	nat Plaintii	ally requests that the court find generally in her/his ff take nothing by way of his/her <i>Complaint for</i> as the court deems just and proper.
	COUN	TERCLAIM
DEFENDANT , Husbar Plaintiff's Complaint for Divorce:	nd 🗌 Wi	Ife , sets forth the following as the counterclaim to

	Defendant is a resident of the City of, County of, State of
2. Place of	DATE OF MARRIAGE: (Day/Month/Year). of marriage: (City/County/State).
3.	DATE OF SEPARATION:
4. marria	IRRECONCILABLE DIFFERENCES : Irreconcilable differences exist in the ge; and
5. grante	AGGRIEVED PARTY: Defendant is the aggrieved party in this case and should be d a divorce from the Plaintiff;
high s	CHILDREN OF THE PARTIES : The Plaintiff and I are <u>not</u> the parents, either natural ptive, of child(ren) who are under 18 years of age, between the ages of 18-20 and still in chool or a program equivalent to high school, or prevented from supporting him/herself a mental, emotional or physical impairment.
	PREGNANCY : To the best of Defendant's knowledge, Wife is not pregnant. [NOTE: If s pregnant, consult an attorney. Your divorce may not be able to be final until after the s born, even if husband is not the biological father.]
	TE: IF YOU HAVE A CHILD THAT FALLS INTO ONE OF THE ABOVE CATEGORIES, STOP. OU SHOULD BE USING THE PACKET AND FORMS FOR A DIVORCE WITH CHILDREN.
	PROPERTY AND DEBTS : The court should equitably divide the parties' property and or if the parties are able to agree upon an equitable division of their property and debts, he court should adopt the parties' agreement.
be determined the course is not re-	SPOUSAL SUPPORT/ALIMONY: The court should award: sintiff Defendant Neither party spousal support/alimony in a reasonable amount to the ermined by the court; or in the alternative if the parties are able to reach an agreement that the urt make the parties' agreement part of any Decree of Divorce is this case. (NOTE: Alimony required by law and, in Wyoming, the Supreme Court has held while alimony may be appropriate the cases, an award of property is a preferable, modern substitute for alimony).
10.	WIFE'S NAME (This is Wife's sole decision). That the Wife: Wants to have her previous name of restored. Does not want to have her previous name restored. Not applicable.
11.	JURISDICTION : That this court is the proper court to decide this divorce action.
REQU Order:	JESTS TO THE COURT: THE DEFENDANT therefore requests that the court enter an

marriage;
2. PROPERTY AND DEBT DISTRIBUTION : Equitably dividing the property and debts of the parties or approve an equitable division agreed upon by both Plaintiff and Defendant and submitted in writing to the court;
3. SPOUSAL SUPPORT (ALIMONY): (NOTE: Alimony is not required by law and, in Wyoming, the Supreme Court has held while alimony may be appropriate in some cases, an award of property is a preferable, modern substitute for alimony); That neither party should pay the other spousal support; That reasonable spousal support be paid by Plaintiff, OR Defendant as the circumstances and facts may require;
4. NAME CHANGE : That the wife be allowed to resume her previous name at the conclusion of this lawsuit if she wishes. NOTE : If you are not the wife who is requesting to have her former name restored, the court must have a written request from the wife who wants her name restored to change the name;
5. OTHER RELIEF : For such other and further relief as the court deems just and equitable.
DATED this day of, 20
Signature
Printed Name:
Address:
Phone Number:

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on	(date) the original of this document was
filed with the Clerk of District Court; and, a tr	rue and accurate copy of this document was served
on the other party by Hand Delivery OR	Faxed to this number
OR by placing it in the United States mail,	postage pre-paid, and addressed to the following:
(Print Plaintiff/Plaintiff's Attorney's Name and	d Address)
TO:	
	Your signature
	Print name
Fill i	in, if applicable
	ng Uniform Rules of District Court the following this pleading but said attorney is NOT deemed to
Attorney's Name	
Attorney's Address/Telephone:	

)	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
)	JUDICIAL DISTRICT
,)	Civil Action Case No
)	
.)	
) ,) ,) ,)

INITIAL DISCLOSURES

The following initial disclosures, are submitted by \square Plaintiff \square Defendant pursuant to Wyoming Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1.1). This information is required in all divorce proceedings to the extent that the information pertains to a particular claim or defense in the action. This information must be made available to the opposing party's attorney or the opposing party if he or she does not have an attorney for the divorce action within thirty (30) days after the defendant has been served with the *Complaint for Divorce*. For any of the following disclosures that do not pertain to you, write "not applicable" on the appropriate schedule.

- 1. A schedule of financial assets owned individually or jointly, such as savings or checking accounts, stocks, bonds, cash or cash equivalents, including the name and address of the depository, the date such account was established, the type of account, the account number, and whether the account is acknowledged to be a marital asset or asserted to be a non-marital asset and, if asserted to be a non-marital asset, an explanation of the legal and factual basis for such assertion. (See attached **Schedule of Financial Assets**.)
- 2. A schedule of non-financial assets, such as personal or real property (i.e. house, land, vehicles, household items, etc.) owned individually or jointly, including the purchase price and the date of purchase or acquiring the property, the present market value, any indebtedness

relating to such asset, the state of record ownership, whether purchased from marital assets or

obtained by gift or inheritance, and whether acknowledged to be a marital asset or asserted to be

a non-marital asset and, if asserted to be a non-marital asset, an explanation of the legal and

factual basis for such assertion. (See attached **Schedule of Non-Financial Assets**.)

3. A schedule of all debts owed individually or jointly, identifying the date any

obligation was incurred, the spouse in whose name the debt was incurred, the present amount of

all debts and monthly payments, the use to which the money was put which caused the debt to

arise, identification of any asset which serves as security for such debt, and an acknowledgement

of whether each debt is a marital or non-marital debt, and if asserted to be a non-marital debt, an

explanation of the legal and factual basis for such assertion. (See attached **Schedule of Debts**.)

4. A schedule of safe deposit boxes, including the name and address of the

institution where the box is located, the box number, the name and address of the individual(s)

who has access to the box, an inventory of the contents, and the value of the assets located

therein. (See attached **Schedule of Safety Deposit Boxes**.)

5. A schedule of employment, including the name and address of your employer;

gross monthly wage; payroll deduction(s), specifically identifying the type and amount; the

amount of other benefits including transportation, employer contributions to health care, and

employer contributions to retirement accounts; and outstanding bonuses. (See attached **Schedule**

of Employment.)

6. A schedule of all other sources of income, including the name and address of the

source and the amount and date the income was received. (See attached Schedule of Other

Income.)

7. A schedule of all retirement accounts or benefits, including the name and address

of the institution holding the accounts or benefits, the present value if readily ascertainable, the

initial date of any account, the expected payment upon retirement and the specific retirement

date, and the value of the account at the date of the marriage if the account existed prior to

marriage. (See attached **Schedule of Retirement Accounts or Benefits**.)

Initial Disclosures Revised August 2011 8. If seeking custody, or a change in custody, set forth the facts believed to support your claim of superior entitlement to custody. In addition, as to a change of custody, set forth the facts comprising a substantial change in circumstances and disclose any supporting documentation. (See attached **Schedule of Custody**.)

9. **NOTE:** Supplementation of disclosures and responses. Wyoming Rules of Civil Procedure 26(e)(1): A party who has made a disclosure or responded to a request for discovery with a disclosure or response is under a duty to supplement or correct the disclosure or response to include information thereafter acquired, if ordered by the court or in the following circumstances:

A party is under a duty to supplement at appropriate intervals, its disclosures if the party learns that in some material respect the information disclosed is incomplete or incorrect and if the additional or corrective information has not otherwise been made known to the other parties during the discovery process or in writing.

DATED this day of _	, 20
	Signature
	Printed Name:
	Address:
	Phone Number:

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on	(date) the original of this document was
filed with the Clerk of District Court; and, a tru	ue and accurate copy of this document was served
on the other party by Hand Delivery OR	Faxed to this number
OR by placing it in the United States mail, I	postage pre-paid, and addressed to the following:
(Insert Other Party's/Other Party's Attorney's N	Name and Address)
TO:	
	Your signature
	Print name

Schedule of Financial Assets

Pursuant to Wyoming Rule 26(a)(1.1)(A)

Required effective July 1, 2008

Type of Account:	Name of Financial	Address of Financial	Date Account Opened	Last 4 Digits of	Asserted as marital or non-marital asset?
Savings, Checking, Stocks, Bonds, Cash or Cash Equivalent	Institution: bank, credit union, or other financial institution	Institution:	(Month/Day/Year)	Account No.	(If non-marital, explain legal & factual basis) (Please attach a separate piece of paper if more space is needed, and label the paper.)
					the paper.)
	1	1 1.0	1 1		

Schedule of Non-Financial Assets

Pursuant to Wyoming Rule 26(a)(1.1)(B)

Required effective July 1, 2008

Item	Purchase Price	Date Acquired/ Purchased	Present Market Value	Debt Related to Asset	State of Record Ownership (Where item is registered or located)	Purchased w/ Marital Assets, Gift, or Inheritance	Asserted as marital or non-marital asset? (If non-marital, explain legal & factual basis) (Please attach a separate piece of paper if more space is needed, and label the paper.)

Schedule of Debts

Pursuant to Wyoming Rule 26(a)(1.1)(C)

Required effective July 1, 2008

Debt owed	Date Incurred (Mo./Day/ Year)	Spouse whose name debt was incurred	Present Amount of Debt	Monthly Payment	Use for which debt was incurred	Asset serving as security for debt	Asserted as marital or non-marital asset? (If non-marital, explain legal & factual basis) (Please attach a separate piece of paper if more space is needed, and label the paper.)

Schedule of Safety Deposit Boxes

Pursuant to Wyoming Rule 26(a)(1.1)(D)

Required effective July 1, 2008

Name of institution where box is located	Address of institution where box is located	Box Number	Name of individual(s) that have access to box	Address of individual(s) that have access to box	Contents of Box	Value of items in box
is located	is located		access to nox	access to nox		III DUX

Schedule of Employment

Pursuant to Wyoming Rule 26(a)(1.1)(E)

Required effective July 1, 2008

Name of Employer	Address of Employer	Gross Monthly Wages (Before tax and payroll deductions are taken out)	Payroll Deductions (Specify type & amount)(Examples: Social Security, taxes, retirement, health insurance)	Amount of other benefits, including transportation and employer contribution to health care & retirement accounts	Outstanding Bonuses (owed to you, but not yet received)

Schedule of Other Income

Pursuant to Wyoming Rule 26(a)(1.1)(F)

Required effective July 1, 2008

Name of all sources of	Address of source of	Amount Received	Date Received
other income*	other income		(Month/Day/Year)
			•
	1 1:0		

Additional sheets of paper are attached if needed

*"Income" means any form of payment or return in money or in kind to an individual, regardless of source. Income includes, but is not limited to wages, earnings, salary, commission, compensation as an independent contractor, temporary total disability, permanent partial disability and permanent total disability, worker's compensation payments, unemployment compensation, disability, annuity and retirement benefits and any other payments made by any payor.

Schedule of Retirement Accounts or Benefits

Pursuant to Wyoming Rule 26(a)(1.1)(G)

Required effective July 1, 2008

Name of institution holding account	Address of institution where account is located	Present value of account	Date account was opened (Month/Day/Year)	Expected payment upon retirement & specific date of retirement	Value of account at date of marriage

)	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
) ss)	JUDICIAL DISTRICT
,)	Civil Action Case No
)	
)	
UEST FOR	SETTING
-	peroximately hours/minutes and
nearing befo	ement (both parties have signed the <i>Decree of</i> re it will enter a <i>Decree of Divorce</i>) (NOTE: is selected); OR
	Plaintiff OR Defendant and this Court of Divorce) (NOTE: submit the Order Setting
Children) (No); OR	OTE: submit the <i>Order Setting Divorce Trial</i>
issues: orty distribut on for :	ree on all of the terms of the divorce and a ion ion inis option is selected)
	thed an agree earing before this option described an against against against able to agree expectation for a control of the co

5) Any party requesting the reporting of a particular matter by the official court reporter shall make a request by phone to the appropriate official court reporter at least **three (3) working days** before the matter is set for hearing. The clerk will be able to inform you which court reporter to contact. The three-day notice requirement will not be waived by the Court. The notice is required for all civil matters including jury trials. Payment of the statutory reporting fee of \$45.00 per day shall be paid to the official court reporter prior to the commencement of the hearing/trial. Checks for the statutory reporting fee shall be made payable to the Wyoming State Treasurer. If a hearing is not

recorded by an official court reporter, a transcript of the hearing will not be available. It is very difficult to appeal the Judge's decision if you do not have a transcript of everything that is said at the trial. Rule 904 and 905 of the Uniform Rules of the District Courts of the State of Wyoming.

DATED this	day of	, 20
		Signature
		Printed Name:
		Address:Phone Number:
		Thore ivanioer.
<u>(</u>	CERTIF	ICATE OF SERVICE
I certify that on _		(date) the original of this document
was filed with the Clerk	of District	Court; and, a true and accurate copy of this document
was served on the other	party by	Hand Delivery OR Faxed to this number
		it in the United States mail, postage pre-paid, and
addressed to the following		To the definition according to proceed the process of the process
addressed to the following	1 5 .	
(I) (O.1) D (O.1)	D . 1 . 4	
(Insert Other Party's/Oth	ier Party's A	Attorney's Name and Address)
TO:		
		Your signature
		Tour signature
		-
		Print name

STATE OF WYOMING)		IN THE DIS	STRICT COURT
COUNTY OF) ss 		JUDI	CIAL DISTRICT
Plaintiff:(Print name of person fi	,)	Civil Act	ion Case No	
vs.)			
Defendant:(Spouse) (Print name))			
	CR SETTING UIRING PRE			
THIS MATTER having co	ome before the	Court upon	a Request for Settin	ng, and the Court
being generally advised in the pren	nises;			
IT IS HEREBY ORDER	ED that a tri	al of the abo	ove matter is herel	by scheduled for
Courtroom No of the	Coı	anty Courthor	use,	, Wyoming on
the, 20	commencing	at: o	'clockm.	
() minutes/hour(s)/day	(s) has been se	t aside for th	e trial of this matte	er.
IT IS FURTHER (ORDERED th	at each party	shall file and serve	e on the opposing
party or their attorney, if represente	ed, no later that	n five (5) day	s prior to the trial,	the party's sworn
statement setting forth the facts, to t	he best of the p	arty's knowl	edge and belief, cal	lled for by Section
"A" of the attached list of informati	ion, and a state	ment by cou	nsel (attorney), if a	ny, of the client's
position and proof as called for by S	Section "B." The	nese filings ar	re required to narrov	w and simplify the
issues, prevent surprise and to elim	minate unnece	ssary proof.	The material may	y be presented in
narrative form but must be complete	e for purposes	called for by	this order. To avoi	d duplication, the
parties or their attorneys, if any, ma	ay submit a joi	nt statement	of those items not	in dispute.

Any party requesting the reporting of a particular matter by the official court reporter shall make a request by phone to the appropriate official court reporter at least three (3) working days before the matter is set for hearing. The clerk will be able to inform you which

court reporter to contact. The three-day notice requirement will not be waived by the Court. The notice is required for all civil matters including jury trials. Payment of the statutory reporting fee of \$45.00 per day shall be paid to the official court reporter prior to the commencement of the hearing/trial. Checks for the statutory reporting fee shall be made payable to the Wyoming State Treasurer. If a hearing is not recorded by an official court reporter, a transcript of the hearing will not be available. It is very difficult to appeal a decision if you do not have a transcript of everything that is said at the trial. Rule 904 and 905 of the Uniform Rules of the District Courts of the State of Wyoming.

In the event that this case settles, the parties are informed that there will be no change in the scheduling of this matter by the Court until such time as the settlement is reduced to writing and a written agreement is presented to the court. There will be no continuances or canceling of the trial date based on telephone calls.

DATED this	day of	, 20	
		DISTRICT COURT JUDGE	
Copies sent to:			
Plaintiff/Plaintiff's Attorn	ney's Name and	Address	
Defendant/Defendant's A	ttorney's Name	and Address	

SECTION "A" SWORN STATEMENT OF PARTY

Items to be included:

- 1. <u>Personal data and history</u> relevant to the issues, including the parties' names, ages, prior marriages, if any, present living situation of the parties and their immediate family. This item calls for a brief but comprehensive statement of the party's personal history as it may relate to the divorce litigation.
- 2. <u>Present employment</u>, including identity and location of employer, nature of the job, length of employment, gross and net income and benefits, including health and accident coverage, if any, its convertibility to non-group plan in event of loss of employment, terms of retirement program, all deductions from salary or wages, and prospects for the continuation of the employment.
- 3. <u>Employment history and employability</u>, including previous employment and incomes, education, training and work experience affecting employability. Include any other factors substantially affecting employability.
- 4. <u>Other income</u>, whatever the source.
- 5. <u>All assets</u> showing source of the asset (i.e., jointly purchased, gift prior to marriage), present value, basis of statement of value and statement of present salability.
- 6. <u>Liabilities</u>, including amount, source, terms of the indebtedness.
- 7. <u>Any other information</u> which counsel, or the party, believe to be material to the determination of the issues.

SECTION "B" STATEMENT OF COUNSEL

Statement of the case by counsel of the client's position with respect to:

- 1. Division of assets and allocation of liabilities.
- 2. If alimony is claimed, the basis of the claim and the amount and duration proposed by the party.
- 3. If client claims exclusive or superior entitlement to "the divorce," the reasons for that position.
- 4. List of witnesses and specific summary of expected testimony.
- 5. Exhibits.

STATE OF WYOMING)	IN THE DISTRICT COURT			
COUNTY OF) ss)	JUDICIAL DISTRICT			
Plaintiff:		Civil Action Case No			
(Print name of person	n filing)				
)				
VS.)				
Defendant:))				
(Spouse) (Print name	e)				
PRETRIAL DISCLOSURES					

NOTE: Unless otherwise directed by the court, these disclosures must be made at least 30 days before trial. Within 14 days thereafter, unless a different time is specified by the court, a party may serve and promptly file with the Clerk of District Court a list disclosing (i) any objections to the use under Rule 32 (a) of a deposition designated by another party under Rule 26(a)(3)(B), and (ii) any objection, together with the grounds therefore, that may be made to the admissibility of materials identified under Rule 26(a)(3)(C). Objections not so disclosed, other than objections under Rules 402 and 403 of the Wyoming Rules of Evidence, are waived unless excused by the court for good cause.

Plaintiff or Defendant submits the following initial disclosures, pursuant to Wyoming Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(3), required in pretrial proceedings. This information must be made available to the opposing party or the opposing party's counsel and the Court at least thirty (30) days before the trial.

A. The name and, if not previously provided, the address and telephone number of each witness, separately identifying those whom the party expects to present and those whom the party may call if the need arises.

B. The designation of those witnesses whose testimony is expected to be presented

by means of a deposition and, if not taken stenographically (i.e. by a court reporter), a transcript

of the pertinent portions of the deposition testimony.

C. An appropriate identification of each document or other exhibit, including

summaries of other evidence, separately identifying those which the party expects to offer and

those which the party may offer if the need arises.

NOTE: Supplementation of disclosures and responses. Wyoming Rules of Civil Procedure

26(e)(1) states that: A party who has made a disclosure or responded to a request for discovery

with a disclosure or response is under a duty to supplement or correct the disclosure or response

to include information thereafter acquired, if ordered by the court or in the following

circumstances:

A party is under a duty to supplement at appropriate intervals, its disclosures if the party

learns that in some material respect the information disclosed is incomplete or incorrect and if

the additional or corrective information has not otherwise been made known to the other

parties during the discovery process or in writing.

DATED this _____, 20 .

Signature_____

Printed name:

Address: ____

Phone Number:

Pretrial Disclosures Revised August 2011 Page 2 of 4

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on	_(date) the original of this document was
filed with the Clerk of District Court; and, a true a	nd accurate copy of this document was served
on the other party by \square Hand Delivery OR \square Fa	xed to this number
OR by placing it in the United States mail, post	age pre-paid, and addressed to the following:
(Insert Other Party's/Other Party's Attorney's Nam	e and Address)
TO:	_
	_
	Your signature
	Print name

(check	one)
4	-

			4	→	
Name of Witness	Address and Telephone Number	Expec witnes testify		May call witness to testify if the need arises	
Additional sheets of n	aper are attached if needed				
Additional sheets of paper are attached if needed (check one)					
Document or Exhibit	Summary of Evidence		Expect to offer	May offer if the need arises	

4 1 11	1		1.0 1
L Δ ddıtı∩nal	sheets at no	aper are attache	ed it needed
Auditional	SHOOLS OF DO	aber are attacin	cu ii iiccucu