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Family Court of the Superior Court of Justice

Ce guide est également disponible en français.

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A Guide to Procedures in Family Court

Revised July 2004

This guide does not provide legal advice. It is recommended that all parties in the Family Court seek legal advice where possible.

Part 6: Uncontested Divorce Simple Application

The steps to obtain a divorce where the case is uncontested (not defended or disputed) are described below. If it is likely that your case will be defended or disputed, you should refer to the *Applications Guide*. At any time in this process if the case is defended or disputed, refer to the *Applications Guide* for the next steps in the case.

Some Things You Need to Know Before You Begin

An application for uncontested divorce may be brought in three ways:

- 1. **A Simple Application:** A simple application deals **only** with a request for divorce. The steps for a simple application are found in this guide.
- A General Application: A general application deals with a request for divorce and other claims. The steps for this type of claim are found in the "General Application" guide.
- 3. A Joint Application: A joint application is brought by both spouses jointly, and must be on consent of both parties. A joint application may deal with claims in addition to divorce, as long as both parties consent to all claims. The steps for a joint application are found in the "Joint Application" guide.

Where to Start Your Case

Before you begin your divorce application, you should check to make sure that you are bringing the application in the right court.

Generally, you should start your case in the court:

- In the municipality where you live; or
- In the municipality where the child(ren) live(s), if you are asking for custody or access to the child(ren).

Court staff must refuse your application if you are in the wrong court.

Central Registry of Divorce Proceedings

Whenever a party applies for a divorce anywhere in Canada, the Central Registry of Divorce Proceedings at the federal Department of Justice must be notified. This is done when you complete a Registration of Divorce Proceeding form. This is not a court form but is available at the court office.

The Central Registry of Divorce
Proceedings will check its database to see if the same parties have registered any other divorce applications. If the check comes up clear, the Central Registry of Divorce Proceedings will issue a Clearance Certificate to the court.

The court cannot grant a divorce until the Clearance Certificate has been filed.

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Marriage Certificate

In order to obtain a divorce, your original marriage certificate must be filed with the court. This can either be done at the beginning when you file the Application or during the second stage when you pick up the remaining forms for completion.

If you do not have your marriage certificate, you can order one from the government of the province where you were married.

In Ontario, you order it from the Office of the Registrar in Thunder Bay. An application for the certificate is available at the Court and may be available from the Family Law Information Centre, city hall, municipal office or a legal aid clinic. There is a fee charged for the certificate and it can take several weeks to obtain. For information, call toll-free 1-800-461-2156 or, within Toronto, (416) 325-8305. You must file your certificate with the court before your Divorce Order is granted.

If you are unable to obtain your marriage certificate, there is a box on page 1 of the Affidavit for Divorce – Form 36, which you can select and provide details.

If you were previously married outside of Canada, you will also have to provide proof of any previous divorce or the death of your previous spouse.

The Divorce Order

Once the judge has an opportunity to review your claim, he or she, if satisfied with the material, will grant you a Divorce Order.

You will need to provide the court with two stamped envelopes in order to receive a copy of your order. One envelope should be addressed to you and the other should be addressed to the respondent. After the judge has signed the Divorce Order, the court will mail a copy to you and the respondent.

The Certificate of Divorce

Your Divorce Order will state that the divorce takes effect on the 31st day after the date on which the order was made. A Certificate of Divorce will be issued as proof that a divorce is effective as of a particular date.

Either party can request the Certificate of Divorce from the court after the required time has elapsed. There is a fee for the certificate, which can be paid by cash, certified cheque or money order, payable to the "Minister of Finance."

Once the request for the certificate is made, court staff will check the file to make sure the required time has passed and that there has been no appeal of the Order. If everything is in order, the certificate will be issued.

Speak to court staff about the easiest way to obtain your Certificate of Divorce.

Steps to Complete a Simple Application

Step 1: Pick up the forms you need.

All of the forms that you will need can be picked up at the court office.

If you are making an Application, you need:

- An Application (Divorce) Form 8A
- An Affidavit of Service Form 6B
- A Registration of Divorce Proceeding form (This is not a court form, but is available at the court office.)

If you have had previous family court files you need:

A Summary of Court Cases – Form 8E

Step 2: Fill in the forms.

Fill in all forms carefully, follow all of the instructions on the forms and include all the information asked for.

Need help completing the forms? Go to the end of this guide for samples.

Step 3: Get a court file number and pay any applicable fees.

- 1. Take your forms to the court office.
- 2. At the court office, staff will:
 - Give your case a court file number.
 - Put a court seal on the Application.
 - Collect any fee for filing your Application. You may pay this fee by cash, cheque or money order payable to the "Minister of Finance." You can find out more about fees at the court office.
 - Court staff will put the following documents in the court file:
 - Registration of Divorce Proceeding Form
 - Your marriage certificate
- 3. Put the court file number in the upper right-hand corner of every page of all of the forms.
- 4. Make **two** copies of your completed Application Form 8A, including any attachments. One copy is for the respondent and one copy is for your files. The originals will be filed with the court in the court file.

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Step 4: Serve the respondent with the documents.

You must arrange to provide the respondent with a copy of your completed Application, including attachments.

These documents cannot be faxed or sent to the respondent through regular mail. They must be served by "special service", i.e., either handed personally to the respondent or the respondent's lawyer or mailed with an Acknowledgment of Service Card – Form 6.

Ordinarily, you should not hand the documents to the respondent yourself. If you cannot find someone to serve the documents for you and you fear for your safety, talk to court staff and they will arrange to serve the respondent for you. You may be able to get a friend or relative to serve the documents for you or you can hire someone to serve the respondent for you; names of these people can be found in the Yellow Pages under "Process Servers."

After the respondent has been served with your documents, the person who served them must complete an Affidavit of Service – Form 6B before a commissioner for taking affidavits.

Refer to the General Information Sheet – "Serving Documents" for more information.

Step 5: File your documents at the court office and pick up the rest of the forms.

After the respondent has been served, and the Affidavit of Service has been completed, you must go back to the court office to file the documents as a package in the court file.

You should now pick up the following forms for the next stage in the process:

- An Affidavit for Divorce Form 36
- A Divorce Order Form 25A

Next Steps

The respondent will have an opportunity to review your Application and must file an Answer if he or she wishes to oppose the divorce or to participate further. If no Answer is served on you or filed at the court by the respondent within 30 days of having been served (60 days if outside Canada or the United States), you can then proceed to Step 6 to apply to the court for a Divorce Order.

If you receive an Answer and the claim is contested, you will need to refer to "Next Steps" in the *Applications Guide* as well as the *First Court Date and Case Conferences Guide*. The respondent must prepare a Continuing Record on filing the Answer, and you will have to file your documents in the Continuing Record.

Step 6: Complete the second set of forms.

Fill in all forms carefully, follow all of the instructions on the forms and include all the information asked for.

There are samples of the forms at the end of this guide highlighting some of the important points about the forms; however, you may ask the Family Law Information Centre staff for information about completing the Affidavit for Divorce and Divorce Order.

Make copies of your forms as follows:

- 1 copy of your completed Affidavit for Divorce – Form 36, including attachments
- 4 copies of your completed Divorce Order – Form 25A

One copy of the Affidavit of Divorce and draft Divorce Order are for you and the 3 copies of the draft Divorce Order are for the court.

Need help completing the forms? Go to the end of this guide for samples.

Step 7: File your documents with the court and pay any applicable fees.

File the following documents at the court office:

- The original Affidavit of Divorce
- The 3 copies of the Divorce Order
- Two stamped addressed envelopes (see page 4)
- Your original marriage certificate (if not filed earlier)

Pay any applicable fees. You can find out more about fees at the court office.

Step 8: Obtain the Divorce Order.

Your file will be sent to a judge to be reviewed. If the judge is satisfied with the material, he or she will grant you a Divorce Order. Neither you nor the respondent is required to attend court to get the Divorce Order unless the court orders otherwise.

If the judge decides to grant the Divorce Order, the court office will sign the Order and send one copy to you and one to the respondent.

If the judge needs more information in order to grant the Divorce Order, the court office will contact you.

Remember that the Certificate of Divorce is the proof that the divorce has been granted. The Certificate of Divorce is not sent automatically and must be requested. Further information about this topic is found at the beginning of the guide.

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Sample Forms

This section contains sample forms that parties will need to fill out when obtaining an Uncontested Divorce – Simple Application.

You may wish to visit the Family Law Information Centre to obtain information about completing court forms.

Some tips on completing all forms:

- Be neat. These are court documents and the court will not take them if they are not neat or the court cannot read them. All court forms must be typed or printed.
- 2. Fill in the name and address of the court where the application was filed at the top of all court documents.
- 3. Once the court staff have given you a **court file number**, make sure it is on the upper right-hand corner of every page of **all** of your documents.
- 4. Make enough **copies** of your completed forms. In most cases you will need to make two copies: one to serve on the other party and one for your files. The original forms will be filed with the court in the court file.
- 5. When completing the forms, you are asked to fill in the address where documents can be served on you. If being served at your home address would put your physical safety at risk, speak to court or Family Law Information Centre staff about using an alternative address.

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Form 8A: Application (Divorce) - Simple Application

FLR 8A (Rev. 04/03)

This form should be completed by the person starting the case.

			Court
00	ITARIO	Court File Number	case
			has b
(Name of a	court)	Family Law Rules, O. Reg. 114/99	docur
at		Form 8A: Application (divorce)	prope
Court office a	address	☐ Simple	them.
		☐ Joint	
Applicant(s) Full legal name & address for service – street & number, municipality,	Lawver's name & address	- street & number, municipality, postal code,	Chec
postal code, telephone & fax numbers and e-mail address (if any).	telephone & fax numbers a		simp
			Appli Appli
Respondent(s)			perso
ull legal name & address for service – street & number, municipality, ostal code, telephone & fax numbers and e-mail address (if any).	Lawyer's name & address telephone & fax numbers a	- street & number, municipality, postal code,	Fill in
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IN THIS CASE, THE APPLICANT IS CLAIMING DIV	ORCE ONLT.		
TO THÈ RESPONDENT(S): A COURT CASE FOR DIVO THE DETAILS ARE SET OUT ON THE ATTACHED PAG		ED AGAINST YOU IN THIS COURT.	Resp
			perso
THIS CASE IS ON THE STANDARD TRACK OF THE Control of the case but, if you have been served with a notice			court
come to court for the motion. A case management judge we court to schedule a case conference or until a notice of m			name
has been held. If, after 200 days, the case has not been s	cheduled for trial, the cleri	k of the court will send out a warning	telep
hat the case will be dismissed in 30 days unless the partie asks for a case conference or settlement conference.	es file proof that the case r	has been settled or one of the parties	numb
F YOU WANT TO OPPOSE ANY CLAIM IN THIS CAS	F you or your lawyer mu	st prepare an Answer (Form 10 – a	have
plank copy should be attached), serve a copy on the ap	plicant and file a copy in	the court office with an Affidavit of	\downarrow
Service (Form 6B). YOU HAVE ONLY 30 DAYS AFTER 1 APPLICATION IS SERVED ON YOU OUTSIDE CANA			Indic
ANSWER. IF YOU DO NOT, THE CASE WILL GO AI DRDER AND ENFORCE IT AGAINST YOU.	HEAD WITHOUT YOU A	IND THE COURT MAY MAKE AN	unco
			for d
F YOU WANT TO MAKE A CLAIM OF YOUR OWN, yo serve a copy on the applicant(s) and file a copy in the cour			
 If you want to make a claim for support but do not we 	ant to make a claim for pro	operty or exclusive possession of the	In th
matrimonial home and its contents, you MUST fill applicant(s) and file a copy in the court office.	out a Financial Stateme	ent (Form 13), serve a copy on the	Supp
 However, if your only claim for support is for child sequidelines, you do not need to fill out, serve or file a 		nt specified under the Child Support	Divo
 If you want to make a claim for property or exclusion. 			D.100
whether or not it includes a claim for support, you M	usive possession or the r	matrimonial home and its contents,	off th
serve a copy on the applicant(s), and file a copy in the	MUST fill out a Financial S	matrimonial home and its contents, Statement (Form 13.1, not Form 13),	off th
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Court File Number: This number is assigned to the case once the court file has been opened. All documents must have the proper court file number on them

Check the box for a simple application.

Applicant: This is the person starting the case. Fill in your full legal name, complete address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address, if you have one.

Respondent: This is the person you are taking to court. Fill in the full legal name, complete address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail if they have one.

Indicate that this is an uncontested application for divorce only.

In the *Important Facts*Supporting the Claim for Divorce section, check off the right boxes and give the information being asked for.

You must sign the form at the end and date it.

Continued on next sheet → (Français au verso)

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Registration of Divorce Proceeding Form – Simple Application

The Registration of Divorce Proceeding form only needs to be completed by one of the parties.

This form has 2 parts and is 3 pages in length. The party starting the case is to complete **part 1** and file it with their divorce application.

This is not a court form but is available from the court office.

Once the form is completed and sent in, the Central Registry of Divorce Proceedings will check their database to see if the same parties have registered any other divorce applications. If the check comes up clear, the Central Registry of Divorce Proceedings will issue a Clearance Certificate to the court.

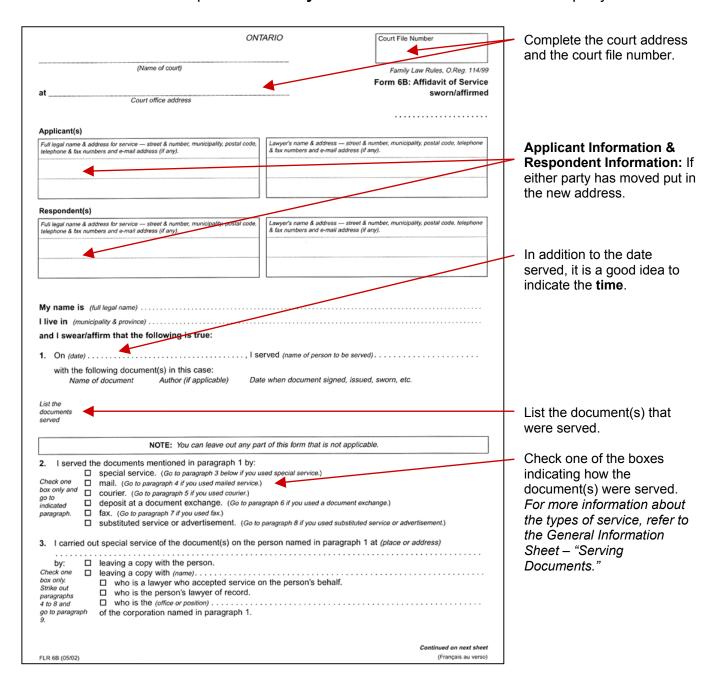
The court cannot grant a divorce until the Clearance Certificate has been filed.

Government Gouvernement of Canada du Canada	REGISTRATION OF DIVORCE PROCEEDING (The Divorce Act)	ENREGISTREMENT D'UNE DEMANDE D'ACTION EN DIVORCE (Loi sur le divorce)	Canada PROTECTED WHEN COMPLETED PROTEGE LORSQUE COMPLETE
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THE HUSBAND AU MARI			
THE WIFE À LA FEMME			
THE HUSBAND AND WIFE, JOINTLY AU MARI ET À LA FEMME, CONJOINTEMENT			
TO A PERSON OTHER THAN THE HUSBAND OR THE WIFE A UNE PERSONNE AUTRE QUE LE MARI OU LA FEMME			
SIGNATURE OF COURT OFFICIAL: SIGNATURE DU FONCTIONNAIRE DE LA COUR:		DATE SIGNED: D-J M DATE SIGNED: LA SIGNATURE: L	Y-A JUS 280 (2001/10)

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Form 6B: Affidavit of Service - Simple Application

This form should be completed when **any** documents are served on the other party.



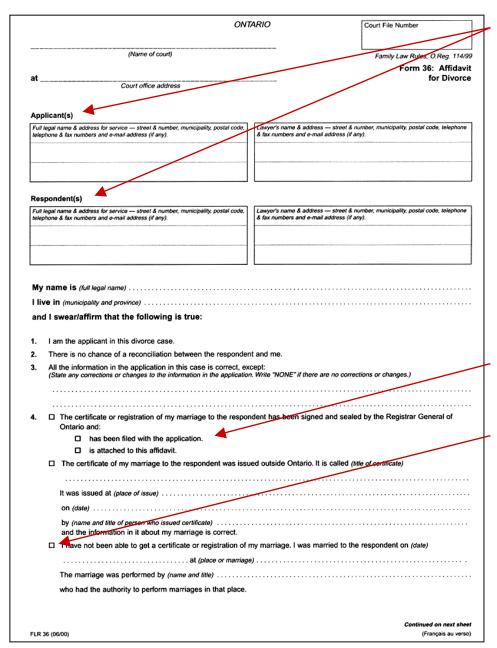
The person who served the documents must sign at the end of the Affidavit swearing or affirming that the affidavit is true. **The Affidavit must be signed in front of a commissioner for taking affidavits.** This can be done at a lawyer's office, at a legal aid clinic or at the court office. There may be a small fee for this service.

When completed, **Form 6B** must be filed in the court file.

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Form 36: Affidavit for Divorce - Simple Application

This form is to be completed by the party who started the case and **must be filed with the Divorce Order – Form 25A**.



Page 1 of the form is similar to all other forms (i.e., applicant and respondent information is required).

Fill in the blanks with the information asked for and check off the boxes that apply.

Indicate if you are unable to provide your marriage certificate. Further information about this subject is detailed at the beginning of this guide.

			Court File Number	\neg		
_			Court File Humber			
For	m 36: Affidavit for Divorce (page 2)			_		
5.	The legal basis for the divorce is:					
	□ that the respondent and I have been separated for at least one year. We	e separated on (date)			
	☐ (Other; specify.)					
6.	I do not know about and I am not involved in any arrangement to make up.	arta bida avidanas	to describe the sount is this			
о.	I do not know about and I am not involved in any arrangement to make up of divorce case.	or to filde evidence t	or to deceive the court in this			
Strik	e out the following paragraphs if they do not apply.					
7.	I do not want to make a claim for a division of property in this divorce case to make such a claim after the divorce.	, even though I know	v that it may be legally impossi	ble	_	Strike out sections 7 and 8
8.	I want the divorce order to include the following paragraph numbers of the a previous court order: (List the numbers of the paragraphs that you want included in		ttlement, separation agreement	<u>**</u>		on page 2 if they do not apply to you.
9.	There are (number)	They are:				apply to you.
Г	Full legal name of child	Bir	th date (d,m,y)	7		
<u> </u>				_		
				-	_	If applicable, complete
						If applicable, complete
				-	//	sections 9, 10 and 11.
<u>_</u>	The control of the shill dead on the shill dead of the shill dead on the shill dead on the shill dead of the shill dead			-//		
10.	The custody and access arrangements for the child(ren) are as follows: (Given a custody and access arrangements for the child(ren) are as follows:	re summary.)		P /		
		•••••		/		
		•••••	/	<i>'</i>		
			····/			
	***************************************		/			
			/			
	-					
11.	These are the arrangements that have been made for the support of the chil		ge:			
	(a) The income of the party paying child support is \$					If you are completing section
	(b) The number of children for whom support is supposed to be paid is (num	-				If you are completing section
	(c) The amount of support that should be paid according to the applicable to	table in the child suc	port guidelines is			11(c), speak to Family Law
	\$per month.					Information Centre staff
	(d) The amount of child support actually being paid is \$		e next page. If the amounts in claus	ees		about obtaining the Child Support Guidelines Kit.
FLR :	6 (06/00)		Continued on next sh (Français au ver			

Sign at the end of the affidavit on page 4. The person signing is swearing or promising that the affidavit is true. **It must be signed in front of a commissioner for taking affidavits.** This can be done at a lawyer's office, at a legal aid clinic or at the court office. There may be a small fee for this service.

Form 25A: Divorce Order – Simple Application

To be completed by the party who started the case and must be filed with an Affidavit for Divorce – Form 36.

		ONTARIO		Court File Number	
SEA	AL)	(Name of court)		Family Law Rules, O.Reg. 114/99	
				Form 25A: Divorce	
	/	Court office address		Order	
		Applicant(s)			Page 1 of the form is
				ress — street & number, municipality, postal	similar to all other forms
		Full legal name & address for service — street & number, municipality, postal code, telephone & fax numbers and e-mail address (if any).	code, telephone & fax	numbers and e-mail address (if any).	(i.e. applicant and respondent information is
					required). Be sure to note if there has been a
Judge (print o	or type name)	Respondent(s)			change of address.
		Full legal name & address for service — street & number, municipality, postal code, telephone & fax numbers and e-mail address (if any).	Lawyer's name & add code, telephone & fax	ress — street & number, municipality, postal numbers and e-mail address (if any).	
Date o	of order	avaisss (ii airy).			
THIS COU	RT ORDER	nes of spouses)			as the divorce was uncontested.
cides that the vorce should ke effect earlier,		married at (place)			
place "31" with smaller mber.	,	d and that the divorce take effect 31 days after the	date of this orde	r.	
	ld further para	raphs where the court orders other relief.)			
					At the bottom of page 2, leave the date of signature and signature line blank. The court will complete this information if the Order is granted.
				Continued on next sheet (Français au verso)	