

Pro Se Divorce

With Children

If you choose to represent yourself in a divorce, you must comply with the following Court procedures, have the knowledge to prepare and file necessary pleadings and present your case to the Court. When filing pro se, you are acting as your own attorney. The District Clerk's Office cannot give you any type of legal advice or guide you on what to file. You may hire an attorney or visit www.texaslawhelp.org.

1. **Court costs must be paid at the time of filing.** Cash, money order or debit/credit card accepted.

Original Petition for Divorce/No Children	\$350
Original Petition for Divorce/With Children	\$365
Citation with service in Hamilton County	\$93
Citation Issued to be served in another county	\$8

2. To file your case, bring your Original Petition and **2 copies** to the District Clerks Office. The District Court's Standing Order must be included with your petition. You can find a copy on our website at www.co.hamilton.tx.us/page/hamilton.dclerk. Once the Petition is file stamped, you must provide your spouse with a copy.
3. All pleading paperwork and decrees must be completely filled in leaving no blanks. They must appear neat and with no white-out. Single-sided pages ONLY. Fill out the documents tailored to your situation.
4. The Hearing can be set once service has been completed or there is a Waiver of Citation on file. Contact the **Court Coordinator at 254-233-9878** to set your hearing.
5. The petition must be on file for at least 60 days before the final hearing can be held.
6. If **CHILDREN** were born during the marriage, the decree **must** include the following:
 - a. Provision for custody of the children and with whom they will live.
 - b. A schedule of visitation (possession order).
 - c. Provision for the children to be covered by health insurance and must identify the parent who is ordered to pay for health insurance.
 - d. Provision for child support in accordance with the guidelines in the Texas Family Code.
 - e. If there is a prior court order which governs possession and access to a child or child support, a certified copy of that order must be presented to the Court.
7. On the day of your hearing, please report to the District Courtroom. Remember to bring:
 - Your script with you
 - Completed BVS Form
 - Completed Divorce Decree

(Both parties must sign the Divorce Decree prior to the hearing)