
HOW CAN I...Schedule an Appointment?

If you are qualified as outlined in this pamphlet, please call our office at 412-391-4467 or come in during intake hours listed in this brochure.

Divorces under this program typically take 6 months to complete after the volunteer attorney has filed the complaint.

WHAT TO BRING...

- Proof of Identification and Access Card, SSI documentation or income information and the following information:
- Your spouse's address and Social Security number, your exact date of separation, and your county of marriage.

For additional information please call:

THE DIVORCE LAW PROJECT

The Allegheny County Bar Foundation
11th Floor, Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-391-4467

The Allegheny County
Bar Foundation

DIVORCE LAW PROJECT



WHAT IS...The Divorce Law Project?

The Divorce Law Project is a program of The Allegheny County Bar Association which serves Allegheny County residents by assisting qualified low-income persons to obtain simple, no-fault divorces. Clients are screened for income eligibility and referred through the Bar Association to an attorney who has volunteered his or her services. The Court also waives many of the fees normally involved.

WHO IS...Eligible for this Program?

Prospective clients generally must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible for referral under the program:

- Residency in Allegheny County for at least six months prior to the initial appointment
- Be either a recipient of Public Assistance, Medical Assistance or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Parties separated for at least one year
- Willingness to proceed only on a simple divorce claim through program
- Ability to provide complete address and Social Security information on spouse who will cooperate in accepting service

WHAT IS...No-Fault Divorce?

Under Pennsylvania Law, parties may be divorced without a hearing to prove that one spouse did something wrong to cause grounds for a divorce.

If the Plaintiff cites that the marriage is irretrievably broken and if both parties consent, a divorce may be granted.

WHAT IF...One Spouse WILL NOT Agree to the Divorce?

The parties may be divorced without the consent of the defendant if the parties have been separated for at least 2 years and the marriage is irretrievably broken. This is not automatic as a spouse can always claim one's marriage is not "irretrievably broken" and demand a hearing.

WHAT ABOUT... Alimony and Equitable Distribution Claims?

The program will not provide an attorney in cases where there is a chance of your receiving alimony from your spouse or where there are difficult questions of equitable distribution to be resolved. Since these matters require extensive preparation by the volunteer attorney and are outside of the scope of this program, our program does not handle matters in which property is involved.

INTAKE HOURS

11th Floor, Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY

1:00 p.m - 3:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, THURSDAY

10:00 a.m. - Noon

WHAT ABOUT...Child Custody and Child Support?

This program cannot provide an attorney for child custody or child support issues. If these matters are contested between the parties, you must retain private counsel to assist you. You will not lose any rights regarding either child custody or child support by being granted a divorce under the program. These matters may always be resolved by the Court, even after the divorce has been granted. The program may be able to provide you with brief counseling and information on these issues, or assist you in obtaining the number of a program where you may be able to find help.

WHAT IF...I Do Not Know where my Spouse is Presently?

Service of the divorce complaint on your spouse is critical and cannot be waived or omitted. If you do not have a valid address where your spouse may be served, you are not eligible for the program.

WHAT DO I DO...To Regain my Maiden Name?

After a divorce decree has been entered, you may regain your maiden name by filing a form with the Court. The fees for this notice are not waived and must be paid by the client. The cost is approximately \$10.00. The voluntary attorney may be able to file the necessary papers.

WILL I...Get a Copy of the Decree?

The Court provides a free copy of the decree to the plaintiff and defendant which the volunteer attorney will obtain for you. The decree is necessary if you ever plan to remarry.
