

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA SUPREME COURT APPROVED FAMILY LAW
FORM 12.903(c)(3)
ANSWER TO PETITION AND COUNTERPETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF
MARRIAGE WITH NO DEPENDENT OR MINOR CHILD(REN) OR PROPERTY
(02/18)**

When should this form be used?

This form should be used when you are responding to a petition for dissolution of marriage with no dependent or minor child(ren) or property and you are asking the court for something not contained in the petition. The answer portion of this form is used to admit or deny the allegations contained in the petition, and the counterpetition portion of this form is used to ask for whatever you want the court to do for you such as restoring your former name.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. After completing this form, you should sign the form before a notary public or deputy clerk. You should file the original with the clerk of the circuit court in the county where the petition was filed and keep a copy for your records.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-FILING

The Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file petitions or other pleadings or documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your pleadings or other documents electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the judicial circuit in which you file. **The rules and procedures should be carefully read and followed.**

What should I do next?

You have 20 days to answer after being served with the other party's petition. A copy of this form must be mailed, e-mailed, or hand delivered to the other party. After you file an answer and counterpetition your case will then generally proceed as follows:

The other party is required to answer your counterpetition within 20 days using an **Answer to Counterpetition**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.903(d).

UNCONTESTED. Your dissolution is uncontested if you and your spouse agree on all issues raised in the petition and the counterpetition. If this is the case, **and** you and the other party have complied with mandatory disclosure and filed all of the required papers, either party may contact the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant to set a final hearing. If you request the hearing, you must notify the other party of the hearing by using a **Notice of Hearing (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.923, or other appropriate notice of hearing form.

CONTESTED. Your dissolution is contested if you and your spouse disagree on any issues raised in the petition or counterpetition. If you are unable to settle the disputed issues, either party may file a **Notice for Trial**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.924, after you have complied with mandatory disclosure and filed all of the required papers. Some circuits may require the completion of **mediation** before a final hearing may be set. You should contact the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant for instructions on how to set your case for **trial** (final hearing).

Where can I look for more information?

Before proceeding, you should read General Information for Self-Represented Litigants found at the beginning of these forms. The words that are in **bold underline** in these instructions are defined there. For further information, see chapter 61, Florida Statutes.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-SERVICE ELECTION

After the initial service of process of the petition or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in certain circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Rules of Judicial Administration.** If you elect to participate in electronic service, which means serving or receiving pleadings by electronic mail (e-mail), or through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, you **must** review Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at www.flcourts.org through the link to the Rules of Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MAY SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO. If a self-represented litigant elects to serve and receive documents by e-mail, the procedures must always be followed once the initial election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915; and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516.

Special notes...

With this form, you must also file the following:

- **Affidavit of Corroborating Witness**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(i) **OR** photocopy of current Florida driver's license, Florida identification card, or voter's registration card (issue date of copied document must be at least six months before date case is actually filed with the clerk of the circuit court).

Instructions for Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.903(c)(3), Answer to Petition and Counterpetition for Dissolution of Marriage with No Dependent or Minor Child(ren) or Property (02/18)

- **Notice of Social Security Number**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(j).
- **Family Law Financial Affidavit**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.902(b) or (c). (This must be filed within 45 days of service of the petition on you, if not filed at the time you file this answer.)
- **Certificate of Compliance with Mandatory Disclosure**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.932. (This must be filed within 45 days of **service** of the petition on you, if not filed at the time you file this answer, unless you and the other party have agreed not to exchange these documents.)

Alimony. By using this form, you are forever giving up your rights to spousal support (alimony) from petitioner. Alimony may be awarded to a spouse if the judge finds that one spouse has an actual need for it and that the other spouse has the ability to pay. **If you want alimony, you must request it in writing** in an appropriate answer and counterpetition (see the other answer and counterpetition forms included in these forms for the appropriate form).

Marital/Nonmarital Assets and Liabilities. By using this form, you are stating that there are no **marital assets** and/or **liabilities**.

Final Judgment Form. These family law forms contain a **Final Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage with No Property or Minor Child(ren) (Uncontested)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.990(b)(3). You should check with the clerk, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant to see if you need to bring a final judgment with you to the hearing. If so, you should type or print the heading, including the circuit, county, case number, division, and the parties' names, and leave the rest blank for the judge to complete at your hearing or trial.

Nonlawyer. Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of a **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900(a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____
Division: _____

In re: The Marriage of:

Petitioner/Counter-Respondent,

and

Respondent/Counter-Petitioner

ANSWER TO PETITION AND COUNTERPETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE WITH NO DEPENDENT OR MINOR CHILD(REN) OR PROPERTY

I, {full legal name} _____, Respondent/Counter-Petitioner, being sworn, certify that the following information is true:

ANSWER TO PETITION

1. I **agree** with Petitioner as to the allegations raised in the following numbered paragraphs in the Petition and, therefore, **admit** those allegations: {indicate section and paragraph number} _____.
2. I **disagree** with Petitioner as to the allegations raised in the following numbered paragraphs in the Petition and, therefore, **deny** those allegations: {indicate section and paragraph number} _____.
3. I currently am unable to admit or deny the following paragraphs due to lack of information: {indicate section and paragraph number} _____.

COUNTERPETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE WITH NO DEPENDENT OR MINOR CHILD(REN) OR PROPERTY

1. JURISDICTION/RESIDENCE
_____ Respondent/Counter-Petitioner _____ Petitioner/Counter-Respondent _____ Both has (have) lived in Florida for at least 6 months before the filing of this Petition for Dissolution of Marriage.
2. Respondent/Counter-Petitioner _____ is or _____ is not a member of the military service.

Petitioner/Counter-Respondent _____ is or _____ is not a member of the military service.

3. MARRIAGE HISTORY

Date of marriage: {month, day, year} _____

Place of marriage: {city, state, country} _____

Date of separation: {month, day, year} _____ (_____ Indicate if approximate)

4. THERE ARE NO MINOR (under 18) OR DEPENDENT CHILD(REN) COMMON TO BOTH PARTIES AND NEITHER SPOUSE IS PREGNANT.

5. A completed Notice of Social Security Number, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.902(j), is filed with this counterpetition.

6. THIS COUNTERPETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE SHOULD BE GRANTED BECAUSE:

a. _____ The marriage is irretrievably broken.

OR

b. _____ One of the parties has been adjudged mentally incapacitated for a period of 3 years before the filing of this counterpetition. A copy of the Judgment of Incapacity is attached.

7. THERE ARE NO MARITAL ASSETS OR LIABILITIES.

8. **RESPONDENT/COUNTER-PETITIONER FOREVER GIVES UP ANY RIGHTS TO SPOUSAL SUPPORT (ALIMONY) FROM PETITIONER/COUNTER-RESPONDENT.**

9. _____ Respondent/Counter-Petitioner wants to be known by the former legal name, which was {former legal name} _____.

10. Other relief {specify}: _____

REQUEST (This section summarizes what you are asking the Court to include in the final judgment of dissolution of marriage.)

Respondent/Counter-Petitioner requests that the Court enter an order dissolving the marriage **and**:

1. _____ restoring Respondent/Counter-Petitioner's former name as specified in paragraph 9 of this petition;

2. _____ awarding other relief as specified in paragraph 10 of this petition; and any other terms the Court deems necessary.

I certify that a copy of this document was () mailed () faxed and mailed () e-mailed () hand delivered to the person(s) listed below on {date} _____.

Petitioner/Counter-Respondent or his/her attorney:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Fax Number: _____
Designated E-mail Address(es): _____

I understand that I am swearing or affirming under oath to the truthfulness of the claims made in this answer and counterpetition and that the punishment for knowingly making a false statement includes fines and/or imprisonment.

Dated: _____

Signature of Respondent/Counter-Petitioner
Printed Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Fax Number: _____
Designated E-mail Addresses: _____

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to or affirmed and signed before me on _____ by _____.

NOTARY PUBLIC or DEPUTY CLERK

[Print, type, or stamp commissioned name of notary or clerk.]

_____ Personally known
_____ Produced identification
_____ Type of identification produced _____

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:

[fill in **all** blanks] This form was prepared for the Respondent/Counter-Petitioner

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual} _____,

{name of business} _____,

{address} _____,

{city} _____, *{state}* _____, *{zip code}* _____, *{telephone number}* _____.