

# Virginia Judicial System Court Self-Help

Resources for Self-Represented Litigants

selfhelp.vacourts.gov

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## Divorce

### **What happens in a Divorce?**

A divorce case can address the following issues:

- end the marriage
- reinstate a former name
- divide property and debt
- spousal support
- child support
- custody and visitation (parenting time)
- parentage issues if necessary

### **Which Court handles divorce?**

Divorces are heard in the Circuit Court, although custody, visitation, child support, parentage and spousal support may be resolved in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. Post-Divorce modifications of support, custody and visitation generally go to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

### **What are the different kinds of divorce?**

There are three kinds of divorces: *Uncontested*, *No-Fault*, and *Contested*.

- For more information about *Uncontested* and *No-Fault Divorce*, please visit [VALegalAid.org](http://VALegalAid.org). This website offers an online forms program for *Uncontested* or *No-Fault Divorce*.
- Consult with a lawyer to learn more about *Contested Divorce*.

### **What resources can help me understand the divorce process?**

**There are no official court forms dealing with the process of spousal separation or divorce.**

Information about the divorce process, as well as practical concerns about financial matters and custody, is available from the Virginia State Bar and VALegalAid.org. These organizations and

the [find a lawyer](#) resources, along with your local court, local law library or local Bar Association may also be able to refer you to someone who can help.

## **What about custody, visitation and support?**

Please visit the [Custody and Support](#) page.

### **Links:**

[Divorce, Custody and Separation in Virginia from VALegalAid.org](#)

[Divorce in Virginia from the Family Law Section of the Virginia State Bar](#)

[VALegalAid.org Family Law Page](#)

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