

# 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 handle the following issues:

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

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

Divorces are heard in the Circuit Court. Custody, visitation, child support, parentage and spousal support may be resolved in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. Requests to revise support, custody and visitation after a divorce 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. **VA Law Help 2 Go** offers a [video](#) that explains your options in pursuing an uncontested divorce from your partner.

## **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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