

UNDERSTANDING DIVORCE

A Resource for Litigants In Person

Divorce is the legal process of ending your marriage or marital union. Persons come to the Court to apply for a divorce when their marriage has broken down and cannot be repaired.

Swipe through to learn the steps for filing for divorce with the Court if you are not using a lawyer.



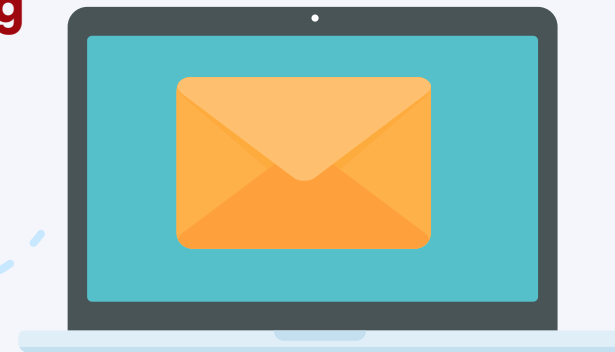
This information has been brought to you through a joint project of the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago, the United States Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, and the National Center for State Courts.

STEP 1:

GET THE DOCUMENTS YOU NEED

Call or email the Family Court location nearest to you to find out which documents you will need to submit to the Court.

- ✓ Port of Spain: fcn.response@ttlawcourts.org
- ✓ Scarborough: fct.response@ttlawcourts.org
- ✓ Princes Town: fcp.response@ttlawcourts.org



STEP 2:

FILL OUT AND FILE YOUR DOCUMENTS

To apply for a divorce, you must fill out a document called a Petition. This document must state why you want the divorce.

To file, visit eservices.ttlawcourts.org/login to upload the petition and other supporting documents.



STEP 3:

GET A HEARING DATE

The Court will give you a time and date for your court hearing in a document called a **Notice of Proceeding**.

Your spouse will also be notified.

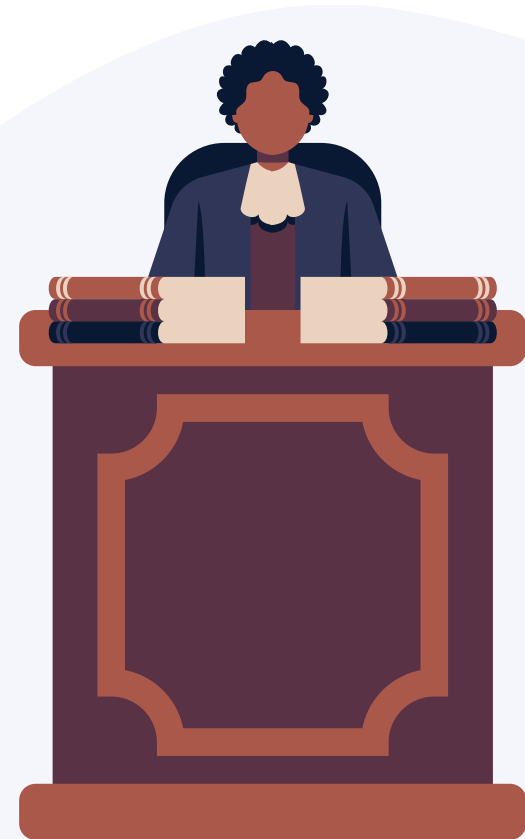
They will get copies of the documents filed and information on the date and time of the hearing.



STEP 4:

ATTEND YOUR COURT HEARING

Both you and your spouse should attend the hearing. At the hearing, you may also be referred to other services that can help you, such as family mediation and counselling.



STEP 5:

FINALISE YOUR DIVORCE

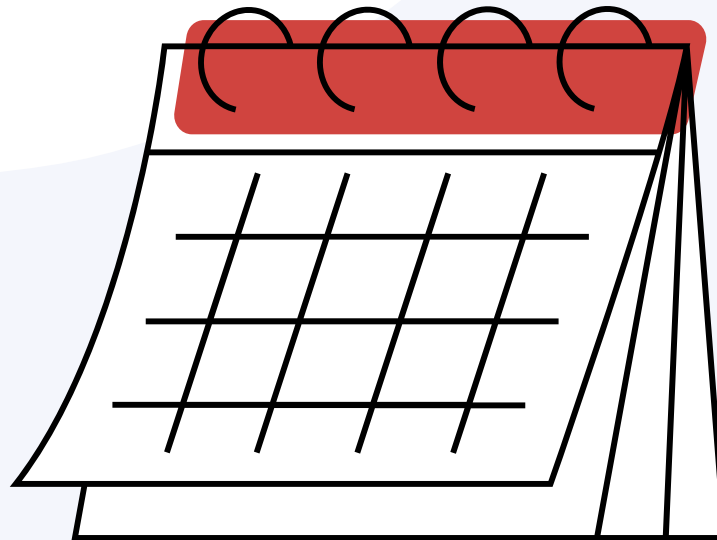
When the Court is finished hearing your matter, you will first receive a provisional divorce, called a **Decree Nisi**.

You can then apply for the **Decree Absolute**. This is the document that finalises your divorce.



IMPORTANT!

To apply for a divorce, you must be married for **at least one year**. The Court will also review applications for divorce before one year of marriage in some situations.





**For more information on filing for a divorce, visit
www.ttlawcourts.org/self-help or contact the Family Court
nearest to you.**



This information has been brought to you through a joint project of the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago, the United States Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, and the National Center for State Courts.