

The Divorce Process

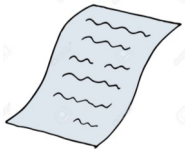
1. The Petitioner (or their solicitor) sends the divorce petition to the Court and pays the court fee of £550. The application can be made online without a solicitor at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-divorce>.

2. The Court checks the paperwork and sends it to the Respondent.



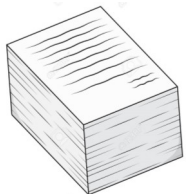
3. The Respondent acknowledges that they have received the paperwork by completing and returning the Court's "acknowledgement of service" form. This says whether they are going to contest the divorce or not.

4. The Court sends the "acknowledgement of service" form to the Petitioner.



5. The Petitioner (or their solicitor) completes the "statement in support" form which asks for the case to go ahead. This is sent to the Court.

6. The District Judge reads the paperwork and if it is all in order, a date is fixed for the Decree Nisi. This is confirmed to both parties, the Petitioner and the Respondent.



7. The Court declares the Decree Nisi (no one needs to attend) and sends copies to the Petitioner and Respondent.



8. At least six weeks and a day after the Decree Nisi, the Petitioner can apply for the Decree Absolute to end the marriage, costing £50. If there are finances to sort out, most people do this first, as decisions on finances can be made legally binding as part of the process. You can use mediation to help sort out your finances.



9. When the Court receives the application for the Decree Absolute, the Court checks the file before granting the Decree Absolute. A copy is sent to both the Petitioner and the Respondent. They are now divorced.