

***THIS GUIDE NEEDS
UPDATING AS TO THE NEW
PROCESS***

The Standard Divorce Process

***THIS GUIDE NEEDS
UPDATING AS TO THE NEW
PROCESS***

Seek advice from a solicitor

Draft Divorce Petition or
Application for Dissolution
of Civil Partnership

File Petition/Application at
Court with the relevant fee
(NB you will need to send
your original marriage
certificate)

Court issues sealed
Petition/Application

Respondent files
Acknowledgement of
Service

Petitioner applies for
Decree Nisi

Decree Nisi
is pronounced

If you have financial matters
to resolve this should be
done before applying for
Decree Absolute

Application for
Decree Absolute

Decree Absolute
is pronounced

Consider how you will pay for your legal fees. If you believe you may be entitled to Legal Aid please note that there are strict and narrow criteria for eligibility. Teelan & Silwal Family Law Limited do not deal with publicly funded (Legal Aid) cases but can recommend a Legal Aid solicitor to you, should you be eligible.

There are strict rules around service so it is important to ensure that the Petition is properly served on the other party to ensure the process may proceed smoothly.

Sometimes the process can be complicated by the Respondent defending or contesting the divorce or dissolution. This is usually resolved at a directions hearing, allowing the process to continue without a final hearing.

Judge considers whether application is valid and may request further information before proceeding.

A judge will also consider whether it is appropriate to make a costs order, provided you have applied for costs in the Petition.

You must wait 6 weeks and 1 day from the date of Decree Nisi before applying for Decree Absolute.

