



Case Ready Coaching

How to File for Divorce in North Carolina – Client Information Sheet

This information is for educational purposes only. Case Ready Coaching **does not provide legal advice or legal representation.**

1. Residency Requirement

At least one spouse must have lived in North Carolina for at least 6 months before filing for divorce.

2. Grounds for Divorce

North Carolina allows no-fault divorce based on one-year separation. Spouses must have lived separate and apart for at least 12 consecutive months, with at least one spouse intending the separation to be permanent.

3. Where to File

File with the Clerk of Superior Court in the county where either spouse resides.

4. Common Forms Needed

- Complaint for Absolute Divorce
- Civil Summons
- Domestic Civil Action Cover Sheet
- Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) Affidavit
- Certificate of Absolute Divorce (after judgment)

5. Filing & Service

File the forms with the Clerk and pay the filing fee (approximately \$225). Your spouse must be formally served by the sheriff, certified mail, or a process server. You cannot serve your spouse yourself.

6. Waiting Period

After service, the other spouse has 30 days to respond. Divorce may be finalized no sooner than 30 days after service.

7. Important Warning

Divorce **does not** resolve custody, child support, alimony, or property division. If claims for alimony or equitable distribution are not filed before divorce is final, those rights may be permanently lost.

How Case Ready Coaching Helps: We help clients understand the process, organize documents, create filing checklists, and prepare for court when self-represented.