

Divorce:

Apply for free legal aid online at MontanaLawHelp.org or call/text Kaia, YHDP Coordinator, at (406) 594-1971



It can be easy to get married, but much harder to legally end your marriage when you need to. We can help you understand the details.

In Montana, the legal name for divorce is *Dissolution of Marriage*. The **Petitioner** is the party who first asks the court for a dissolution. The petitioner asks the court for a dissolution by filing a *Petition for Dissolution* with the Clerk of District Court. The **Respondent** is the other spouse. The respondent will have an opportunity to tell the court what they would like to address in the dissolution by filing an *Answer to Petition for Dissolution*. The answer must be submitted within 21 days after being served with the Petition for Dissolution.

If there are minor children from the marriage, the dissolution must include a [Parenting Plan](#).

A dissolution requires answers to questions like:

- What will happen to the real property, like land and homes?
- Who will keep what personal property, like furniture, animals, and cars?
- How will we divide financial assets, like savings and retirement accounts?
- Who will be responsible for which debts?

With children:

- Where will the children live and what contact they will have with each parent?
- How will we provide child support and medical support for the children?

Important: You may need an advocate or attorney if there is or has been domestic violence in the relationship; Or, if a parent has physically, emotionally, or sexually abused children.

**Please, contact MLSA for additional information and assistance.
Find dissolution information & forms on: MontanaLawHelp.org**

Final Decree of Dissolution

To finalize the divorce, the judge must issue a Final Decree of Dissolution. A Final Decree legally ends the marriage and changes your status from married to single.

Tribal communities may have different rules for divorce/dissolution. If you are a tribal member living in a tribal community, call MLSA for advice on your specific situation.

How can MLSA help me?

MLSA provides FREE legal information, forms, advice, and representation to eligible clients.

MLSA's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) Coordinator can provide you with referrals to agencies in your community and link you with free civil legal assistance.

Have more questions about your legal rights?

Visit: MontanaLawHelp.org

