

§ IN THE DISTRICT COURT
§
§ 324TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
§
§ TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS

Standing Order Regarding Self-Represented Litigants

For divorce and modification cases as well as suits affecting parent child relationship filed in the 324th District Court of Tarrant County, after March 1, 2020, IT IS ORDERED that all self-represented litigants who meet the following criteria shall have their final divorce, modification, and suit affecting parent child relationship documents reviewed by the Tarrant County Domestic Relations Office (DRO).

Required criteria:

- A petition for divorce, modification or suit affecting parent child relationship is currently filed in Tarrant County.
- The divorce, modification or suit affecting parent child relationship is uncontested, either by agreement (decree or agreement is signed by the other party), by global waiver, or by default (has been served and failed to file an answer);
- The final decree or order form is from the Texas Supreme Court (promulgated TexasLawHelp.org); and
- Neither party to the divorce is presently represented by an attorney.

For divorces, modifications, or suits affecting the parent child relationship meeting the above criteria that are ready to be finalized, the self-represented litigant(s) shall contact the Domestic Relations Office, Legal Support Services (817-884-1879) to request a review.

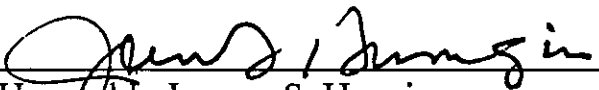
As available, the DRO staff attorney shall review the final decree or order, any necessary attachments, and any other ancillary documents. When satisfied the forms are complete, the attorney shall provide the self-represented litigant with a completed *Uncontested Docket Checklist*. The checklist informs the Court that the self-represented litigant has completed the necessary requirements to finalize the divorce and informs the Court of any issues to be addressed; furthermore, it enables the Court to conduct its uncontested docket in an efficient manner.

The litigant proving up the divorce, modification, or suit affecting the parent child relationship must hand the *Uncontested Docket Checklist* to the court immediately

prior to prove-up if there is an in-person hearing or must efile the completed hecklist if the hearing is to be held virtually. A prove-up will not be conducted without a completed checklist.

Please note, the DRO staff attorney does not provide legal advice and does not represent the self-represented litigant. Setting an appointment is usually best, since walk-ins are dependent on an attorney's availability.

IT IS SO ORDERED on this the 10 day of June
2020


The Honorable Jerome S. Hennigan