

Seeing Your Attorney For The First Time

A Preparation and Mediation Guide
to save you money in the attorney's office

Kathey Batey



**DIVORCE
SUPPORT
ANONYMOUS**



Seeing Your Attorney For The First Time

A Preparation and Mediation Guide

Kathey Batey Domestic Mediator

kathey.batey.3@gmail.com

810 730 6679

www.DivorceSupportAnonymous.com

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Introduction

This book is a general guide to assist you in preparation to see your attorney for the first time and for mediation. This workbook is excellent for the divorce of most people, however, each divorce situation is different, and some very complex (multiple businesses, properties, co-ownerships, etc.) in which, you may require additional resources. This workbook should not be considered legal advice. It is a tool to prepare you for going through a divorce.



About the author

Kathey Batey has been working in the divorce world since 2005 guiding and coaching **hundreds of men and women** going through divorce. She is a court appointed **domestic mediator** and also trained as a restorative practices leader. She holds **local support groups** in her hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan and **virtual support groups** for access to anyone in the world with internet connection. She is the creator of *Divorce Support Anonymous* and the author of the books series *Suddenly Single*, *30 Days of Healing After Divorce* and a variety of workbooks.



Kathey Batey
Domestic Mediator, Divorce Coach,
Group Support

Kathey Batey's other resources:

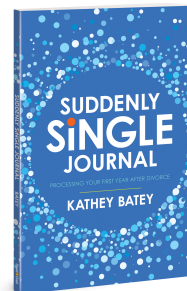
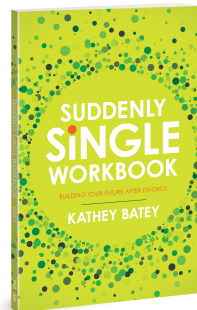
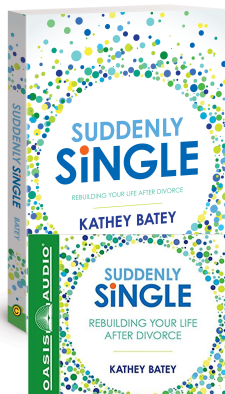


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How To Use This Workbook

Use this workbook as a tool to prepare going to your attorney for the first time and preparing for mediation. Gather all your information and enter into this efficient workbook. Get a folder to keep all the documents, titles, deeds, bank accounts, credit card bills, utility bills, etc. you will need relevant to your case. Having them organized in one place will help you when you need to share and verify them with the other party or attorneys.

- Knowledge to subside the fear of the unknown
- Save hundreds of dollars by being prepared to meet with your attorney
- Spare the children their insecurity by being a confident parent through this process
- Place to store information in one place
- Know what documents to have for your first attorney visit and mediation

Should I Have a Divorce Coach?

The advantage of having a divorce coach is to have someone to guide you through the many questions you have about the divorce process. They can help you refine your questions for the attorney so you make the most of the time in the attorney's office. They can help you maneuver the difficult obstacles and cost you much less than the same information from your attorney. Coaches are not attorneys but they have the knowledge and experience to guide you as they save you money, time and availability.

Selecting Your Attorney

Selecting an attorney seems an overwhelming process. It is really a trust issue, so you must find someone you can trust. Trust to have your best interest at heart and trust on how they will use your time and money efficiently. Ask friends whom you trust if they know or have used any good family law attorneys or any attorney who may be able to recommend another attorney. Many attorneys will allow you to interview them at no cost. Some by phone, some in person. Be sure and meet with them in person prior to selecting. Trust your gut like you would when searching for a new Dr. or other highly trained professional. Remember regardless of their title, you are the one hiring them. If you see they are not responding to you (the most frequent complaint of attorneys), you can fire your attorney (caution of them keeping retainer balance, check agreement).

Key questions to ask

What is the best way to communicate with you? And how quickly should I plan on a response?

- Does his/her response method work for you?

What is your retainer and if not used how is it refunded? What happens when the retainer is gone? Does it refill for the same amount?

- It will be in the thousands of dollars, this is typical.

What is your view on mediation? Collaborative divorce?

- Court is where attorneys make their most money. So listen to his/her response.



What is the % of divorce cases have you actually taken to trial?

-You can hope for low percentages here, if he takes a large percentage to court, he is not focused on alternative resolution which costs you much less.

What is the length of time I can expect my time with you? When can I expect to be officially divorced?

Will other people work on my case? What are their hourly rates?

When I am need assistance working with my spouse, how can you help?

Remember you are hiring them and they work for you. I have met many competent and caring attorneys in mediations who stand up and guide their clients. I have also worked with some attorneys who are rushing the way to court and egging on their clients to fight more and negotiate less. Like any profession, there are great ones and terrible ones and everything in between.

What To Expect In Your First Attorney Meeting

Once you have selected your attorney, he/she will want to know about the relationship fundamentals and all of the information in this workbook. By completing this workbook you will have the information your attorney needs to know to work your case. Be sure and have all of the information completed and the documents listed here in your possession so you can save time in your attorney's office (time equals \$\$). The attorney's charge by the hour including text, phone calls, emails. So keep your conversation factual and relevant to your case. Remember, a divorce coach can frequently answer the basic questions at a significant less cost. And attorneys are not the place to get therapy.

The majority of divorces are ordered to mediation as a way to resolve the division of assets and debts and coparenting. Sometimes the attorneys work out your agreement, or some people choose to divorce *without attorneys* by using a trained mediator and the forms included in this workbook. Whichever path you choose to take, by completing this workbook you will be ready to begin negotiations.

I highly recommend getting your network of experts for these 4 areas in which you are vulnerable; legal, financial, emotional, spiritual. They don't always require a professional in every area, but someone who is looking out for your best interest and has the necessary knowledge to help you. Don't go through divorce alone. It is too difficult and has too many moving parts.

Use your energy wisely during this time and learn what you need to know to take care for yourself and your children. The most successful are those who deal with their emotions in the appropriate setting and don't bring their emotions to their attorney or to the mediation table. As emotional as these times are, it is too costly and rarely helpful to deal with the depth of emotions in the legal or mediation setting. You will need your best business sense going through divorce and mediation. The decisions you make now will affect you and your children for the rest of your lives. Find those experts to guide you. Focus straight ahead, you will get through this difficult journey. Remember at any time you can take a break to clear your mind, call a friend, pray.



Your Support System

You will need a support system. It doesn't always have to be a professional that you pay, but knowledgeable people you trust. I hope you have friends, family and co-workers who support you in some way. If you are on this journey alone due to location, alienation or their withdrawal, do not despair.

Join us on FB page **Divorce Support Anonymous** for support. Virtual groups are held weekly to assist you through this difficult journey.

Family coach _____

Phone Number _____

Email address: _____

Legal coach _____

Phone Number _____

Email address _____

Financial coach _____

Phone number _____

Email address _____

Parenting coach _____

Phone number _____

Email Address _____

Other contact information you may need during this process: (Realtors, appraisers, pastors, children's teachers, neighbors, bankers etc.)

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

NOTES:



Premarital and why it matters

People marry with assets they have earned prior to the marriage (especially in second marriages). These premarital assets should be separated from the marital assets. It matters if you owned the home prior to marriage, it matters if you have retirement monies that you earned prior to the marriage. Find the dated documentation of such assets to discuss with your attorney. It does get sticky when you have *co-mingled* assets. For example: You gained an inheritance from your grandfather in which you invested into the marital home. These may be considered marital assets. But it is important to have these premarital assets listed for a conversation with your attorney and if they have been co-mingled, there is still a chance to deduct these from the mediation if the other party is reasonable.

What To Expect In Mediation

Although each mediation is unique to the parties, there are some general principles to know to help your mediation be as painless and less damaging as possible for yourself and your children.

First step - Domestic Violence Screening

Prior to mediation you should be going through a domestic violence screening. The purpose of this is to insure you can speak for yourself and you are not intimidated by the other party. Unless you are on equally empowered, the mediation cannot be successful. Tell your mediator if you are feeling fearful, intimidated or threatened by your spouse.

Day of Mediation

Initial Meeting

The mediator will typically speak with you individually prior to the mediation. The mediator will want clarity on all the issues of this mediation and precisely what you want to have settled today. Get to know your mediator, ask all the questions you need. Then the mediator will go to the other party and listen to their case and what they wish to settle in the mediation. This individual meeting is confidential and nothing stated will be shared with the other side. Your mediator is a neutral party, wanting the best outcome for both of you.

The Mediation Room

The mediator will eventually bring you into one main room. You will sit across from your spouse and the attorneys will sit beside each of you. If one or the other party is overly emotional or intimidated it is possible to hold a “shuttle” mediation where the mediator goes back and forth to each room and brings negotiated items to each party. It is not as efficient as being in the same room, but it can work if needed to help the mediation move forward.

Mediators Opening Statement - The mediator will begin by giving an opening statement, explaining the mediation process. This will include the confidentiality, their role as mediator, civility, breaks when needed and more. Even though this is the initial part of the mediation and stressful to you, listen to the guidelines so you feel security within the structure of the mediation.

Confidentiality - Notes will be destroyed and no conversation or determination will be admissible to the courts. This gives you the ability to be creative in ideas, negotiations and



solutions. Nothing will be final and contractual until you both sign the Agreement, then it is a legally binding contract.

Breaks (Caucus) - Whenever you feel the need for a break from the mediation let it be known. Even if it is just to clear your head, phone a friend or professional, think clearly, do some math, pray.

The Mediator Role- The mediator is not there to offer solutions, advice, options, but is there to provide structure and to be in charge of the process. That means she/he must maintain structure, keep communication going, clarify numbers, rephrase what has been said to aid in communication. They may offer some creative options perhaps not yet suggested. This does not mean they are advising, but something to add perspective to the issue that perhaps has not been considered. It should be neutral and not advantageous to one party or the other.

The Agenda -Typically, after the opening statement, they will build an agenda of what issues are going to be discussed. They will clarify and get agreement on any needed information such as values, facts, accounts, etc.

The Mediation

The mediator will now begin laying the issues out one by one asking one of you to state how you would like to see the issue resolved. Then the other party will express their views and will begin to work toward a resolution. You will hear things you disagree with. Use your paper and pen provided to you to write down your thoughts. The mediator will allow you to state your views. Some things will need to be tabled for a time, and discussed later if an impasse happens and you cannot agree on a solution. But each issue that is agreed upon keeps you further out of the court's determination.

Full Agreement

When all items of the divorce are resolved and agreed upon, this will be a full agreement. This means you have made the determination for your future instead of a judge. This signed Agreement has settled it all. One of the attorneys, typically the person who filed will attach the Agreement to the Judgment Of Divorce and submit to the court and only the Plaintiff will be required to appear in court. Then the divorce will be final. Some people choose to complete their own Judgment of Divorce (sample on page 43) provided through the courts if they are not using an attorney. The courts will require a certain amount of time to pass to have the divorce final. In Michigan, it is 6 months with minor children and 60 days if there are no children involved. Each state varies on time requirements.

Partial Agreement

It is possible to reach a partial agreement, which is an agreement to some, but not all of the disputes. Whatever you get settled during mediation does not need to be further discussed or settled within the courts. Whatever was not settled has a few optional methods for resolution; a second mediation, a settlement conference, going before a judge for determination. A word of caution, is it worth the fight? If it is the children, it may be well worth the fight. But make sure those issues yet to be resolved are not going to cost more in legal fees than the value of the item you are disputing.



Your Rights with an attorney and rights in mediation

You have rights going through divorce.

Your rights with your attorney. Keep in mind you hired your attorney. He works for you. Often parties will let the attorney do the majority of speaking during mediation or court, but the real authority is yours. Do not allow the attorney to make decisions for you that you are not comfortable, informed or consented to. It is easy to get lost in the process and find yourself with a final agreement that does not serve you well in the future. Take the necessary breaks to consult with your attorney to insure you understand everything, *everything* that is going on and especially what you are signing that is legally binding.

Your rights in mediation. The mediation process is a voluntary process, although a court may order you to mediation, in which case you are required to show and attempt to resolve your conflicts. You are not forced to resolve your conflict. You have the right to mediate without an attorney or with an attorney. **SUGGESTED:** *If you are mediating without an attorney, I suggest you do not sign anything until you have had an attorney review for you. It is well worth the hour investment to get their legal opinion.* You have the right to change or release your attorney at any time. (There may be costs if you have paid a retainer). You have the right to stop mediation at any time you do not feel you can speak for yourself, badgered or the mediation it is not productive. However, don't give up too early, many mediations find creative answers well into the process. And it is not a fast process. If your mediation is court ordered you may have deadlines to settle prior to court. Your mediation should not be high pressure. You should have access to taking a break or consulting with another person or professional when needed. If not, you can stop the mediation at any time in the process. But consider the alternative, going to court? Setting up another attempt to mediate?

Your Emotions

Let me repeat the importance of dealing with your emotions appropriately. I don't have to tell you how emotional this process is going to be. You've been living it up until now. Prepare yourself for an exhausting day, it is hard work. Have your emotional energy directed to the right place and bring your best business sense into this mediation. The truth is, your relationship has come down to a business transaction and you have to be alert as possible for this day and able to make some wise decisions and negotiations. You won't get everything you want, but you should be protected enough by the laws to get what you need to move forward. You will need a mind shift and understanding that this person is no longer the intimate partner you once had. He/she is not to be trusted. I highly doubt (although I wish, and I have seen it on rare occurrences) that your soon to be former spouse cares deeply for your future and well being. You have to be able to stand up for yourself and if the emotions get too overwhelming you can ask to have the mediation from separate rooms where the mediator goes back and forth with the offers of settlement.

Full disclosure

In preparation for your upcoming meeting with your attorney and mediation prepare and provide all financial information and ownership documentation to be mediated. **Full disclosure is required for mediation.** If this information is not complete and accurate it may make the Agreement null and void



with detrimental consequences of expense and possible litigation. You may use this as a worksheet as well as a checklist. *Use the note section* to add your thoughts and what you would like to see happen with these assets and debts.

There will be a discovery period where parties will provide to their attorney and the other party all documentation of accounts and assets. The earlier you gather the documents the easier it will be for you.

General Information

Full Name of Plaintiff(who filed): _____

Full Name of Defendant: _____

Years married _____

Date of filing: _____

or date person moved out of house _____

Answer the best to your ability. Have as much documentation as possible.

Plaintiff	Defendant
Primary Workplace _____	Primary Workplace _____
Other income? _____	Other income? _____
Projected current year \$ _____	Projected current year \$ _____
Last year income _____	Last Year Income \$ _____
2 Years ago \$ _____	2 Years ago \$ _____
Average \$ _____	Average \$ _____

Notes: (example: has a lot of cash dealings or any relevant information on income, etc.)



Document checklist:

Bring these items to your attorney's office on your first meeting and maintain these records for mediation and provide a copy to the other party. (See Financial form on page 36)

Create a file for all documents. Keep a file of all correspondence with attorneys and with your spouse. Make sure you are disclosing all financial information and let your attorney know if you believe he/she is withholding information.

1. Tax Returns for the past two years
2. Itemized bank statements for the past 18 months
3. All charge card statements for the past 18 months
4. Retirement account statements for the past 18 months
5. Vehicle titles to sign off if needed
6. Property deeds or mortgage statements
7. Appraisal of the marital home (not a realtors market value).
8. Any liens on properties, houses, boats, cars etc.
9. Premarital list of assets *with documentation*.



1) REAL PROPERTY

Marital Home address _____

Appraised Value _____ (Appraisal is not realtors market value or Zillow)

Mortgage _____

Debt to others on home _____ (example: family loans)

Property liens or co-ownership of properties? _____ With whom? _____

Equity _____ (this is what you will be dividing)

Second Home _____

Appraised Value _____ (Not realtor market value or Zillow)

Mortgage _____

Debt to others on home _____ (example: family loans)

Property liens or co-ownership of properties? _____ With whom? _____

Equity _____

Notes:



Personal	Property	Division	

Other Misc.





3) CHECKING AND SAVINGS INFORMATION

Begin separating finances, create new accounts with your name only. Do not close out accounts until directed by your attorney to do so. Make sure you have a system to pay household bills from a mutual account. In general all money prior to filing (sometimes when party vacates marital home) is considered marital money to be divided equally between parties. Premarital assets should be noted.

Accounts:

Bank name _____

Bank Account # _____ (last 4 digits)

Balance as of divorce file date _____

Notes of unusual withdrawals, closing account or misuse:

Bank name _____

Bank Account # _____ (last 4 digits)

Balance as of divorce file date _____

Notes of unusual withdrawals, closing account or misuse:

Bank name _____

Bank Account # _____ (last 4 digits)

Balance as of divorce file date _____

Notes of unusual withdrawals, closing account or misuse:

NOTES:





4) CREDIT CARDS

Itemized statements in question. (Beginning 18 months prior to date of separation or filing).
Premarital should be noted.

List Credit Cards of marital debt (during the marriage)

1) _____ Amount of debt \$ _____

2) _____ Amount of debt \$ _____

3) _____ Amount of debt \$ _____

BUYING/SELLING/HIDING-

Have there been any buying or selling items, stocks, bonds, CDs valued over \$200 value in the past 18 months the other party does not know about? Have there been funds withdrawn and hidden from the other party?

Any other miscellaneous marital debt:

Notes:



5) RETIREMENT ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Premarital should be noted.

Retirement account name _____

Account # _____ (last four digits)

Value* _____

Notes of withdrawals, closing, misuse:

Retirement account name _____

Account # _____ (last four digits)

Value* _____

Notes of withdrawals, closing, misuse:

Retirement account name _____

Account # _____ (last four digits)

Value* _____

Notes of withdrawals, closing, misuse:

* Date of determination for values will be decided at time of mediation. It may be date of filing, date of mediation or first of calendar year as agreed upon by parties.

Notes:



6) CARS, MOTORIZED VEHICLES, BOATS, ETC.

(Have in your file and bring title paperwork to sign off to other party at mediation)

Vehicle 1 _____

Value _____

How value was determined _____

Vehicle 2 _____

Value _____

How value was determined _____

Vehicle 3 _____

Value _____

How value was determined _____

Vehicle 4 _____

Value _____

How value was determined _____

Vehicle 5 _____

Value _____

How value was determined _____

Notes:





7) CHILDREN: yes, no (if no minor children skip to page 28)

(Do not add stepchildren)

Child full name	Birthdate	Gender
	/ /	
	/ /	
	/ /	
	/ /	
	/ /	

Has parenting and custody been settled? yes or no

_____ Legal custody

_____ Physical custody

Have you applied to Friend of the Court for any determination of child support or custody? _____

Child Support Calculation

Calculation for child support can be determined by using the Michigan Legal Help calculator found at this link. <https://michiganlegalthelp.org/> Child support is determined by several factors, most important being: # of overnights, wage differences.

Overnights Mother _____ Father _____

Income Mother _____ Father _____

Coparenting should be determined by the best interest of the children. That is how the court will view it. Try to keep as much normalcy and stability for them as possible during this difficult time. In mediation we will discuss further detail on the raising of the children. Media guidelines, bedtimes, homework, correspondence with schools etc. Please be prepared to discuss and work together for the best of your children. Research shows children are much more successful if parents can coparent well.

Notes:



CHILDREN (con't)

Consider prior to meeting with your attorney and mediation:

Who will be responsible for health insurance for children? _____

Length of time of coverage _____ (18 or through college?)

Who will cover deductibles not paid by health insurance? _____

Who will claim tax deductions? _____ (alternate years, parent with physical custody, sole parent, etc?)

How will extra curricular activities be paid? _____

Other child raising disciplines, beliefs or programs which need to be discussed:

Note: There is no legal obligation to pay for a child's college. It can be considered if agreed upon with marital funds but legally there is no obligation.

Notes:



I have provided *2 different types* of coparenting schedules.

Choose which you prefer and begin reviewing your desires for your parenting time.

Consider purchasing a computer app, Family Wizard or similar program to keep the children’s schedules and activities on. It also tracks communication between parents to assist in clearer communication.

Option 1 Parent Plan Worksheet

PARENTING TIME PLAN						
HOLIDAYS						
HOLIDAY	ODD YEARS	EVEN YEARS	COMMENTS			
New Year’s Eve						
New Year’s Day						
Valentine’s Day						
Yom Kippur						
Easter						
Passover						
Spring Break						
Mother’s Day						
Father’s Day						
Memorial Day						
Fourth Of July						
Labor Day						
Rosh Hashanah						
Halloween						
Thanksgiving						
Hanukkah						
Winter Break						
Christmas Eve						
Christmas						
Child(ren)’s Birthday(s)						
Mother’s Birthday						
Father’s Birthday						
Other						
Other						



Child Custody Provisions for Discussion with Your Attorney

- 1) Telephone contact when child is with other parent.
- 2) Parent with child makes day to day decisions. More serious matters require consult with other parent.
- 3) Parent's address to determine school attendance (If relevant)
- 4) Access to child as permitted by school.
- 5) Each party will advise other current address and contact information.
- 6) Relocating beyond 45 minutes requires mediation of parenting schedule.
- 7) Changes can be made to parenting schedule if both parents agree, if they cannot agree, schedule defaults to agreed schedule.
- 8) No disparaging remarks will be made about other parent, nor allowed from other family or friends.
- 9) Neither party will schedule extra-curricular activities during other parents time.
- 10) Both parents have full access to all school records.
- 11) Each parent will promptly inform the other on serious illness or injury.

NOTES:



Option 2 Parenting Plan Worksheet

School year schedule

MO for Mother

FA for Father

Mark * for activities & parent responsible.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM
PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM
Overnight	Overnight	Overnight	Overnight	Overnight	Overnight	Overnight
AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM
PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM
Overnight	Overnight	Overnight	Overnight	Overnight	Overnight	Overnight
AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM
PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM
Overnight	Overnight	Overnight	Overnight	Overnight	Overnight	Overnight
AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM
PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM
Overnight	Overnight	Overnight	Overnight	Overnight	Overnight	Overnight

Notes:



CHILDREN -SCHEDULE FOR HOLIDAYS

The residential schedule for the child(ren) for other holidays is:

Beginning date _____

Circle how you would like to see it.

New Year's Eve	Mother Odd years	Father Even Years	Every Year
New Year's Day	Mother Odd years	Father Even Years	Every Year
Easter	Mother Odd years	Father Even Years	Every Year
Passover	Mother Odd years	Father Even Years	Every Year
Labor day	Mother Odd years	Father Even Years	Every Year
Thanksgiving Day	Mother Odd years	Father Even Years	Every Year
Christmas Eve	Mother Odd years	Father Even Years	Every Year
Christmas Day	Mother Odd years	Father Even Years	Every Year
Hanukkah	Mother Odd years	Father Even Years	Every Year
Independence Day	Mother Odd years	Father Even Years	Every Year
Memorial day	Mother Odd years	Father Even Years	Every Year
Halloween	Mother Odd years	Father Even Years	Every Year
Mother's Day	Every Year		
Father's Day	Every Year		
Other _____	[] Mother [] Father [] Odd Years [] Even Years [] Every		
Other _____	[] Mother [] Father [] Odd Years [] Even Years [] Every		

For purposes of this parenting plan, holiday times will begin and end as follows:

SCHEDULE FOR WINTER/CHRISTMAS VACATION

The child(ren) will reside with [] Mother [] Father during the winter vacation or
 The child(ren) will reside with [] Mother [] Father for the first week of winter vacation
 in [] even [] odd years and the other parent for the second week.

SCHEDULE FOR SPRING VACATION

The child(ren) will reside with [] Mother [] Father during the spring vacation in [] even
 [] odd years.



CHILDREN - SUMMER SCHEDULE

Upon completion of the school year, the child(ren) will reside with parents as follows:

- same as school year schedule
- one week every month
- Two weeks every month
- One month with each parent

Notes:

Miscellaneous child issues:

Any miscellaneous issues for the children not yet stated: example: (Who pays for extra-curricular?
Access to grandparents, etc.)



8) TAXES

How will you file your upcoming taxes?

Will you file single, joint or head of house? Ask your tax professional which will work best for you.

There may be a financial benefit to filing jointly the year you are divorcing. Determine how to file and how to split the return if there is a refund. Or how it will be paid if payment is required.

What are your options?

Who will claim the children this year?

Who will claim in the future?

Notes:



9) Spousal Support

There is a spousal support calculator as well as a child support calculator for your individual state. (In many states spousal support is not typically granted when married less than 10 years).

Have you applied for Friend of the Court determination?

Monthly amount being requested? _____

For how many years? _____

Notes:



Optional Division of Assets form.

Some people want the assets and personal property to be equal at the bottom line (It extends negotiating time to go into this detail).

Your Proposed Division of Assets and Debts Divided

Use these symbols to help guide you on what is important to you.



What is most important to you



What you are ambivalent about



What you do not want

Asset or Debt	3rd party owned or minus debt	Liability or equity	Plaintiff + or -	Defendant + or -
Example: Sofa Total Value N/A	N/A	\$300	Mike \$300	
Example: 4 Wheeler Total Value \$3500	Bank	\$2500 owed	Mike (\$1000)	
Total Value				
Total Value				
Total Value				
Total Value				
Total Value				
Total Value				
Total Value				
Total Value				
Total Value				
Total Value				
Total Value				
TOTAL VALUES				



Final Direction:

You may go into your attorneys' office and into mediation with a firm plan in your mind how this division of assets and debts is going to be divided. Be prepared that it may not work out the way you have planned due to your spouses desires, stubbornness or his/her attorneys'.

Have an alternate plan in mind that you can live with. It is much easier if you have these thoughts formulated in your mind prior to the pressure in mediation negotiations. It may be necessary to have a second or third choice of division of assets and parenting time. It is all part of the process.



Thank you for completing this *Seeing Your Attorney For The First Time* workbook.

By doing this pre-meditation work it will be a more productive, time-efficient meeting with your attorney and mediation. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me. First consultation is no cost to you. I want to guide you through this most difficult journey.

Kathey Batey
Kathey.batey.3@gmail.com
www.DivorceSupportAnonymous.com
810 730 6679



What Could Go Wrong?

The best laid plans can go awry in mediation. I've seen the simple become complex and the complex work out easier than I thought. You just never know, even when you've had verbal agreement or consent earlier, desperation can motivate otherwise. I tell you these things to watch out for and to prepare you for some scenarios I have seen as a mediator.

Division of property

When premarital assets are joined in marital funds it is called **Co-mingling**, and once co-mingled it is legally difficult to unwind and separate. For example, you get an inheritance from your grandfather of \$80,000. You use it to build a new room onto your marital home. It is now co-mingled and part of the marital estate.

What can be done? Negotiate. You can ask for \$80,000 more in the equity of the home or a lesser value but something that honors grandfather and brings the more of it to you.

Parenting Time

When one parent feels they have no power in the negotiation they may determine to use the children as pawns to leverage some power. It is not in the best interest of the children and in fact can be harmful to the children. Unless there is some physical and or emotional abuse, the children need both parents.

Consider carefully the social life of your children. Where is the best place for them to be with the majority of the time? You can't always keep the home for the children's stability, but you can be stable yourself and provide consistent parenting that does not bash the other parent and harms the child.

Speak with a child expert on key things to know to help your children through this divorce. Keep them in mind as you mediate and look at the long term affects for what is best for them.

Emotions

When emotions hijack the mediation. It is never efficient and rarely beneficial for emotions to take over mediation. Sadly, the relationship has become a business transaction. It requires your best business sense and keep your emotions in another realm, a support group or a therapist. They are much cheaper than an attorney or your mediator.

Punishment

When one party wants to punish the other for past sins. This is an expensive and often volatile place to punish, it harms the mediation. Work through this issue with your therapist. Focus on the business transaction and keep in mind most of the fifty states are no-fault divorce, so the affair won't bring you more than is rightfully yours.

Attorney Overtake

When attorneys direct you to go to court and let the judge decide. Sounds good in theory, but the reality is, you don't know how the judge will decide and it is a huge risk that may not favor either of you. Or the attorney's want to control the mediation, they can speak for you if you wish, but remember this is your mediation and your life you are deciding.



TERMS:

Arrearages: The amount of money that is past due for child support.

Conciliation: Like mediation conciliation is voluntary, parties are free to agree and attempt to resolve their dispute. They are usually private but can be held in the court. A conciliator may recommend solutions.

Child Support: Money a non-custodial parent pays the other parent to cover child(ren)'s food, clothing and shelter.

Child Support Guidelines: Guidelines to determine child support amount is calculated, based on the income of the parents and the needs of the child.

Co-mingling: Occurs when one spouse's separate property is mixed with the couple's marital property during the marriage. This typically occurs when marital funds are used to improve, maintain, contribute, or pay off a separate property asset.

Custody: Parenting authority

Defendant/Respondent: The person to whom the divorce papers were filed against.

Deposition: The taking of an oral statement of a witness. The intent is to allow the parties to learn all of the facts it is usually done under oath and can be submitted to court.

Discovery: When each party shares all asset, debt information with the other party. Usually completed by attorneys.

QDRO: (Qualified Domestic Relations Order) A court order to divide retirement assets. It is a specialized document done by some attorneys or financial experts. During divorce and with a QDRO no penalties will be paid.

Settlement Conference: A meeting with parties and attorneys to try to settle the case. This is decided by the parties to try as many times as they wish to settle the case. (Keep in mind legal fees).

Spousal support/Alimony/spousal maintenance: Financial support made to the other spouse for a set amount of years or a lifetime. Typically only considered 10+ years of marriage.

Legal Custody: Legal authority over the children for all medical, legal, educational decisions.

Physical Custody: Where the child(ren) reside. It is either shared, joint, or primary.

Parent Ad Litem: An individual who acts as a court appointed guardian for the children in decision making.

Plaintiff/Petitioner: The person who initiates the divorce and files the complaint of divorce.

Prenuptial Agreement: A legal agreement entered into prior to marriage determining the rights, responsibilities, and asset ownership if there were a divorce or death.

Personal Protection Order: An order of the court usually due to domestic violence or custody disputes. The order is to keep the alleged offender away from the alleged victim.



STATE OF MICHIGAN JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY PROBATE	SUMMONS	CASE NO.
---	----------------	-----------------

Court address	Court telephone no.
---------------	---------------------

Plaintiff's name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s).	v	Defendant's name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s).
Plaintiff's attorney, bar no., address, and telephone no.		

Instructions: Check the items below that apply to you and provide any required information. Submit this form to the court clerk along with your complaint and, if necessary, a case inventory addendum (form MC 21). The summons section will be completed by the court clerk.

Domestic Relations Case

- There are no pending or resolved cases within the jurisdiction of the family division of the circuit court involving the family or family members of the person(s) who are the subject of the complaint.
- There is one or more pending or resolved cases within the jurisdiction of the family division of the circuit court involving the family or family members of the person(s) who are the subject of the complaint. I have separately filed a completed confidential case inventory (form MC 21) listing those cases.
- It is unknown if there are pending or resolved cases within the jurisdiction of the family division of the circuit court involving the family or family members of the person(s) who are the subject of the complaint.

Civil Case

- This is a business case in which all or part of the action includes a business or commercial dispute under MCL 600.8035.
 - MDHHS and a contracted health plan may have a right to recover expenses in this case. I certify that notice and a copy of the complaint will be provided to MDHHS and (if applicable) the contracted health plan in accordance with MCL 400.106(4).
 - There is no other pending or resolved civil action arising out of the same transaction or occurrence as alleged in the complaint.
 - A civil action between these parties or other parties arising out of the transaction or occurrence alleged in the complaint has been previously filed in this court, _____ Court, where it was given case number _____ and assigned to Judge _____.
- The action remains is no longer pending.

Summons section completed by court clerk.

SUMMONS

NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT: In the name of the people of the State of Michigan you are notified:

1. You are being sued.
2. **YOU HAVE 21 DAYS** after receiving this summons and a copy of the complaint to **file a written answer with the court** and serve a copy on the other party **or take other lawful action with the court** (28 days if you were served by mail or you were served outside this state).
3. If you do not answer or take other action within the time allowed, judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
4. If you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.

Issue date	Expiration date*	Court clerk
------------	------------------	-------------

*This summons is invalid unless served on or before its expiration date. This document must be sealed by the seal of the court.



SUMMONS

Case No. _____

PROOF OF SERVICE

TO PROCESS SERVER: You are to serve the summons and complaint not later than 91 days from the date of filing or the date of expiration on the order for second summons. You must make and file your return with the court clerk. If you are unable to complete service you must return this original and all copies to the court clerk.

CERTIFICATE / AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE / NONSERVICE

OFFICER CERTIFICATE

OR

AFFIDAVIT OF PROCESS SERVER

I certify that I am a sheriff, deputy sheriff, bailiff, appointed court officer, or attorney for a party (MCR 2.104[A][2]), and that: (notarization not required)

Being first duly sworn, I state that I am a legally competent adult, and I am not a party or an officer of a corporate party (MCR 2.103[A]), and that: (notarization required)

- I served personally a copy of the summons and complaint,
- I served by registered or certified mail (copy of return receipt attached) a copy of the summons and complaint,

together with _____
List all documents served with the summons and complaint

_____ on the defendant(s):

Defendant's name	Complete address(es) of service	Day, date, time

- I have personally attempted to serve the summons and complaint, together with any attachments, on the following defendant(s) and have been unable to complete service.

Defendant's name	Complete address(es) of service	Day, date, time

I declare under the penalties of perjury that this proof of service has been examined by me and that its contents are true to the best of my information, knowledge, and belief.

Service fee \$	Miles traveled	Fee \$	TOTAL FEE \$
Incorrect address fee \$	Miles traveled	Fee \$	

Signature _____

Name (type or print) _____

Title _____

Subscribed and sworn to before me on _____, _____ County, Michigan.
Date

My commission expires: _____ Signature: _____
Date Deputy court clerk/Notary public

Notary public, State of Michigan, County of _____

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SERVICE

I acknowledge that I have received service of the summons and complaint, together with _____ Attachments

_____ on _____
Day, date, time

_____ on behalf of _____
Signature



STATE OF MICHIGAN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT	DOMESTIC RELATIONS VERIFIED FINANCIAL INFORMATION FORM	CASE NO. and JUDGE
---	---	---------------------------

Plaintiff's name	v	Defendant's name
------------------	---	------------------

- Failure to complete and serve this form may result in sanctions consistent with MCR 2.313.
- Each party must complete a copy of this form and sign page 7 before a notary public. All the applicable sections must be completed.
- You must serve a completed copy of your form on the other party within 28 days after the date of service of defendant's initial responsive pleading to the complaint that started the case.
- Completing this form is not necessary if you and the other party agreed in writing not to exchange the form, or if a settlement agreement, consent judgment, or other final order that resolves the case has been signed by you and the other party at the time the case is filed.
- A proof of service must be filed with the court after you have served this form on the other party.
- Do not file this document with the court.

Note: If you are a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking by another party in this case, you may leave out any information which might lead to the location of where you live or work, or where a minor child (if any) may be found. If you are self-represented and do not provide your address because of domestic violence, you will need to give this form to the other party at the first scheduled matter, or as otherwise directed by the court or agreed to by the parties. If you leave out information, you must explain the reasons why in a sworn affidavit and file it with the court by the date this disclosure form is due to the other party.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____
First, middle, and last name

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Date of birth: _____ Social Security Number: _____

Driver's license number and state: _____

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Provide information for each source of employment income. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Employer name: _____ Self-employed

Employer address: _____
Street City State Zip

Occupation: _____ Professional license, type and no.: _____

Gross income (before taxes and other deductions): \$ _____ weekly biweekly bimonthly monthly

Hourly pay rate (including shift premium and cost of living adjustment): \$ _____

Total regular hours worked per pay period: _____ Average overtime hours for past 12 months: _____

Total amount of owner's draws during the past twelve months (if self-employed) : _____

Approved, SCAO
 Form CC 320, Rev. 6/22
 MCR 3.206
 Page 1 of ____



ASSET INFORMATION

Provide asset information for divorce, separate maintenance, and annulment cases only (DO and DM case types).

Real Property

Provide the following information for any real estate in which you own an interest. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Address of property: _____
Street City State Zip

Date of purchase: _____ Estimated value: \$ _____ SEV: \$ _____
Date

Balance on mortgage/land contract: \$ _____

Monthly payment: \$ _____ The monthly payment includes: taxes. insurance.

Name of lender: _____

Property is titled as follows: _____
Name(s) and specific ownership interest in property

Primary residence Other: _____

Balance of equity loan or line of credit: \$ _____ Monthly payment: \$ _____

Name of lender for equity loan or line of credit: _____

Financial Accounts

List all financial accounts including, but not limited to, bank, credit union, CDs, stocks, annuities, IRAs, 401(k), 403(b), trust, Michigan Education Savings Program (MESP), and health savings accounts in which you have an interest. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Type of account	Current balance (before taxes)	Balance 90 days before current balance
Account no.	\$	\$
Name of institution	as of:	
Name on account		

Type of account	Current balance (before taxes)	Balance 90 days before current balance
Account no.	\$	\$
Name of institution	as of:	
Name on account		

Type of account	Current balance (before taxes)	Balance 90 days before current balance
Account no.	\$	\$
Name of institution	as of:	
Name on account		

Type of account	Current balance (before taxes)	Balance 90 days before current balance
Account no.	\$	\$
Name of institution	as of:	
Name on account		



Pension

List all defined benefit plans that will pay you a monthly benefit at retirement age. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Company or employer name: _____

Lump sum value: \$ _____ Estimated monthly payment: \$ _____

Earliest date you are eligible to receive your pension benefit: _____
Date

Life Insurance

Provide the following information for all life insurance policies in which you have an interest. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Insurance Company: _____ Policy no.: _____

Policy owner: _____ Beneficiary: _____

Death benefit: \$ _____ Premium: \$ _____ per _____
week/month/year

Cash/surrender value: \$ _____ as of _____ . Taxable
Date

Employer provided: yes no

Motorized Vehicles

List all motorized vehicles in which you own an interest. Include automobiles, boats, snowmobiles, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, etc. Include information on any loans that you co-signed for the benefit of another person. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Year, make and model	Amount owed
Title holder	\$
Lender	as of
Estimated value	

Year, make and model	Amount owed
Title holder	\$
Lender	as of
Estimated value	

Year, make and model	Amount owed
Title holder	\$
Lender	as of
Estimated value	

Year, make and model	Amount owed
Title holder	\$
Lender	as of
Estimated value	



Personal Property

List all other items of personal property such as furniture, jewelry, gold, silver, collectibles, artwork, guns, furs, tools, etc. Do not include items of minimal value such as clothing. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Description of property	Estimated value	Date purchased or acquired
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	

Total: \$ _____

Miscellaneous Use additional sheets if necessary.

1. Do you own or have access to any safe deposit boxes? yes no If yes, provide information on where it is located and a list of the contents: _____
2. Are any accounts, money, or assets being held for your benefit? yes no If yes, provide amount, where it is held, and the reason it is being held: _____
3. Are you holding or acting as the custodian of any money, accounts, or asset for the benefit of someone else?
 yes no If yes, describe what it is, where it is located, and why you are holding it or acting as custodian:

4. Do you have any ownership interests in any type of business? yes no If yes, describe the business and what your ownership interests are: _____

5. Are there any other assets or income to which you are entitled, or to which you believe you will become entitled?
 yes no If yes, describe the assets, their value, and why you believe you are or will be entitled to them:



6. Are there any debts that are owed to you? yes no If yes, describe who owes the money, how much is owed, the amount and frequency of payments, the purpose of the loan, and the loan end date: _____

7. Are there any other items you own that have financial value such as electronic assets, season tickets, or electronic currency such as bitcoin? yes no If yes, describe asset, where it is held and its current value as of a specific date: _____

8. Are there any outstanding court cases other than this one involving you, your spouse, or family members that may result in an award for or against you? yes no If yes, describe the case, where it is filed and the possible award or liability: _____

DEBTS

Provide debt information for divorce, separate maintenance, and annulment cases only (DO and DM case types).

Credit cards, personal loans, student financial aid loans, other unsecured loans

Include all loans that are for your benefit or that you are a co-signer on for another person. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Type of debt	Balance owed
Name of lender	\$
Account no.	as of
Name(s) on account	

Type of debt	Balance owed
Name of lender	\$
Account no.	as of
Name(s) on account	

Type of debt	Balance owed
Name of lender	\$
Account no.	as of
Name(s) on account	

Type of debt	Balance owed
Name of lender	\$
Account no.	as of
Name(s) on account	

Attach the last three statements for all accounts.



Court ordered financial obligations

Provide the following information for all your court-ordered financial obligations including, but not limited to, child or spousal support in a different case, garnishment, civil judgment against you, and court-ordered fines, fees or restitution. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Type of obligation: _____
Child support, spousal support, garnishment, judgment, etc.

Payment amount: \$ _____ per _____

Balance (if applicable): \$ _____ Estimated end date (if applicable): _____
Date

Court: _____ Case no.: _____

MISCELLANEOUS

Provide miscellaneous information for divorce, separate maintenance, and annulment cases only (DO and DM case types).

1. Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? yes no If yes, provide the date, case number, and current status of the bankruptcy: _____

2. Do you claim that any of the assets or debts that you listed are your separate property? yes no If yes, provide detailed information on which asset(s) or debt(s) and why you think they are your separate property:

3. If there is any additional information regarding assets, debts, business interests, stocks, bonds, anticipated income, or any financially related information of any kind that has not been disclosed on this form, provide that information below.

I declare that the statements above are true to the best of my information, knowledge, and belief.

Date

Signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me on _____
Date

Deputy clerk/Notary public signature

My commission expires on _____

Name (type or print)

Notary public, State of Michigan, County of _____ Acting in the County of _____

This notarial act was performed using an electronic notarization system or a remote electronic notarization platform.



180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

(616) 632-5480

PLAINTIFF:

DEFENDANT:

The Honorable _____, Judge, 17th Circuit Court

I. Findings of the Court

1. This judgment is entered after trial after default on consent of the parties.
2. The Plaintiff filed a complaint for divorce against the defendant.
3. The Court finds that there has been a breakdown of the marriage relationship to the extent that the objects of matrimony have been destroyed and there remains no reasonable likelihood that the marriage can be preserved.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED:

II. Dissolution of Marriage

4. The marriage between the Plaintiff and the Defendant is dissolved; the parties are now divorced.

III. Child Custody, Parenting Time and Child Support

5. Custody of Minor Children

The minor children of the parties are:

Full Name

Date of Birth

Custody is granted as follows:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Legal custody to | <input type="checkbox"/> plaintiff | <input type="checkbox"/> defendant | <input type="checkbox"/> both parties, jointly |
| Physical custody to | <input type="checkbox"/> plaintiff | <input type="checkbox"/> defendant | <input type="checkbox"/> both parties, jointly. |

6. Required Notice of Change in Child/ren's Address

A parent with physical custody must notify the Friend of the Court in writing whenever the address of a minor child changes.



7. Restrictions on Moving the Child/ren Outside of Michigan

The domicile of the minor child/ren may not be moved from the state of Michigan without prior approval of the court.

8. Restrictions on Moving the Child/ren More Than 100 Miles

Pursuant to MCL 722.31 neither party shall move more than 100 miles away from where they lived at the beginning of this case. The child/ren have a legal residence with each parent.

MCL 722.31 does not apply because the parties lived more than 100 miles away from each other when this case began.

MCL 722.31 does not apply because one of the parties is granted sole legal custody of the parties' minor child/ren.

The parties agree that either may move more than 100 miles from where the parties lived when this case was filed, as long as they still live within the State of Michigan.

9. Restrictions on the Location of Parenting Time

Neither parent shall exercise parenting time in a foreign country/nation that is not a party to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

The parties have agreed in writing that the Plaintiff Defendant may exercise parenting time in _____, which is not a party to the Hague Convention.

10. Parental Cooperation for Best Interests of the Child/ren

The parents shall cooperate with respect to a child so as to, to a maximum degree, advance a child's health, emotional, and physical well-being and to give and afford a child the affection of both parents and a sense of security. Neither parent will, directly or indirectly, influence a child so as to prejudice a child against the other parent. The parents will endeavor to guide a child so as to promote the affectionate relationship between a child and the mother and a child and the father. The parties will cooperate with each other in carrying out the provisions of this order for a child's best interests. Whenever it seems necessary to adjust, vary, or increase the time allotted to either party, or otherwise take action regarding a child, each of the parties shall act in the best interests of the child. Neither party shall do anything which may estrange the other from the child, injure the child's opinion of the other party, or which will hamper the free and natural development of the child for the other party.

11. Parenting Time

The mother father both parents are to have specific parenting time according to a parenting time schedule.

Parenting time is ordered according to the Kent County Parenting Time Guidelines Addendum which is attached and incorporated into this judgment by reference.

Parenting time is ordered according to the attached _____, which is incorporated into this judgment by reference.

Parenting time shall be reasonable and mutually agreed by the parties.

12. Child Support

Child support, child care, health care and other medical insurance and support costs are provided for in the Uniform Child Support Order entered with this judgment of divorce and incorporated by reference.

A Uniform Child Support Order is already in effect from case number _____, County of _____, State of _____.

This order shall continue pending consolidation or further order of the court.

Child support is reserved.

Any child support arrearages under the temporary order are are not preserved.

13. Dependent Tax Deductions

The father is awarded the income tax deductions, credits, or exemptions for the minor child/ren, including state, federal, or local tax returns, for all tax years beginning in the year of the entry of this judgment.

The mother is awarded the income tax deductions, credits, or exemptions for the minor child/ren, including state, federal, or local tax returns, for all tax years beginning in the year of the entry of this judgment.

The parties shall claim all the income tax deductions, credits, or exemptions in alternating years with the mother **OR** father claiming for even numbered tax years and the mother **OR** father for odd numbered tax years.

If the parent claiming the exemption(s) in a given tax year does not have custody of the child/ren for the greater part of that year, the other parent shall file IRS Form 8223 agreeing to release his/her claim to the exemption(s) for that year.

14. Exclusion of Husband as Father of Child/ren Born During the Marriage

The husband is not the legal father of the following child/ren born during the marriage

Full Name Date of Birth



IV. Property Division

15. Personal Property

- Each party is awarded the property now in his or her possession free of claims by the other. Each is responsible to pay any debt related to property awarded to them.
- The parties' personal property is divided according to the attached Personal Property and Debt Addendum. Any personal property to be exchanged shall be so exchanged within 30 days of the entry of this judgment.

16. Debt

- There are no debts to be divided
- Each party is responsible for paying the debts in his/her name.
- Debts are divided according to the attached personal Property and Debt Addendum

17. Vehicles

- The parties do not own any vehicles.
- The parties own vehicle(s) that are to be divided according to the attached Vehicle Addendum.

18. Real Property

- The parties do not own any real property
- The parties own real property that is awarded according to the attached Real Property Addendum.

19. Pension and Retirement Benefits

- There are no pensions, annuities, individual retirement accounts or other types of retirement plans or accounts, whether vested or unvested, accumulated or contingent, to be divided.
- Each party is awarded his or her own pensions, annuities, individual retirement accounts or other types of retirement plans or accounts, whether vested or unvested, accumulated or contingent, as his/her own sole and separate property.
- Pensions, annuities, individual retirement accounts or other types of retirement plans or accounts, whether vested or unvested, accumulated or contingent, are divided according to the attached Pension/Retirement Account Addendum.

20. Life Insurance

Except as otherwise preserved in this judgment, any interests of either party in any insurance policy or insurance contract on the life of the other party, as beneficiary or otherwise, are extinguished. Each party holds the policy(ies) free and clear of the claim of the other.

V. Additional Provisions

21. Spousal Support

- Neither party is awarded spousal support and spousal support is forever barred.
- Spousal support is reserved for husband wife.
- Spousal support is awarded according to the attached Uniform Spousal Support Order entered with this judgment and incorporated by reference.

22. Wife's Name

- The wife's name is restored to _____ (full name).
- The wife shall retain her married name.
- The wife never adopted the husband's name.

23. Provision in Place of Dower

The property division provisions in this judgment take the place of any dower, homestead, or other rights of either party in the lands of the other. With the exception of the obligations and reservations contained in this judgment, each party from this point forward holds her or her lands free, clear and discharged from any such dower rights or claims of the other party.

24. Documents

Within 30 days after this judgment is entered, each party shall properly prepare and deliver to the other party all the documents required to divide the property and debt as ordered in this judgment. A certified copy of this judgment may be presented or recorded to effect such a transfer, if necessary.

25. Fees and Costs

Any previously suspended fees and costs in this case shall be
 paid by the Plaintiff. paid by the Defendant. waived permanently.

26. Settlement of Claims Between the Parties

This judgment resolves the last pending claim and closes this case.

27. Effective Date of Judgment

This judgment shall become effective immediately after it is signed by the Judge of the Circuit Court and filed with the Clerk of Court.

28. Jurisdiction Retained

This court retains jurisdiction of this matter to enforce all the terms of this judgment. The parties shall keep a current mailing address on file with the Kent County Clerk of the Circuit Court.

29. Attachments:

The following addendums are attached and incorporated into this judgment of divorce.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Property Addendum | <input type="checkbox"/> Debt Addendum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle Addendum | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Property Addendum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pension/Retirement Addendum | <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting Time Addendum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mediation Agreement dated _____. | |

30. Other Provisions:

I find that this Judgment comports with my decision in this matter.

Date

Referee, 17th Circuit Court

Date

Judge, 17th Circuit Court

We agree to the terms of this Judgment of Divorce:

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Print Name

Print Name



Legal Assistance Center

180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Suite 5100, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Revised 12/2015



