

Divorce with Children Overview

This is an overview of the court process in Illinois. This entire divorce process may often take between six months – 2 years, and often involves multiple court visits.

Petitioner files for divorce \$

Petitioner gives notice to spouse of divorce case \$
(serves summons)

Respondent responds to the divorce case \$

Both must complete parenting class \$

If agreement: give judge your marital settlement agreement at a hearing called a “prove up” \$

OR

If no full agreement: case goes to trial and judge will make decisions for you. \$

Both update judge about divorce issues

- Both negotiate:
- Property and debt
 - Spousal and child support
 - Allocation of parental responsibilities (custody)
 - Parenting time (visitation)

If both do not agree about all issues, parties can be sent to mediation or a lawyer for children may be appointed. \$

\$ Means this step may cost a fee, unless judge grants fee waiver

For the necessary forms and information about how to complete each step, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/divorceselfhelp>.

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