

INSTRUCTIONS TO PRO SE LITIGANTS IN DIVORCE CASES
PLEASE READ COMPLETELY

Court Administrators, Court Coordinators, nor any personnel of the District Clerk's office can practice law or give you any type of legal advice.
Please do not ask them to do so.

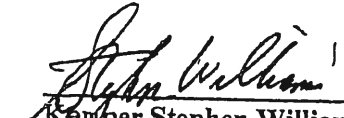
If you choose to represent yourself in a divorce, you **MUST** comply with the following Court rules before asking the Court to grant a divorce:

1. ALL pleadings and Court orders **MUST** appear neat, clean, with no smudges or strike-overs.
2. ALL fill in the blank pleadings and decrees **MUST** be FULLY filled in. NO BLANKS.
3. If anything contained in the forms you are using do not apply to you and your spouse, DO NOT include them in your petition or your decree.
4. All pleadings and decrees **MUST** be printed on 8 ½ X 11 inch paper.
5. If your divorce involves motor vehicles, you **MUST** describe the vehicle by manufacturer, model year, and vehicle I.D. number.
6. If the divorce/decreed involves real estate, you **MUST** include the proper legal description of the real estate and information concerning the bank or lien holder.
7. If children were born during the marriage, the decree **MUST** include the following:
 - a. Provision for custody of the children and with whom they will live.
 - b. A schedule of visitation (possession order).
 - c. Provision for the children to be covered by health insurance, and must identify the parent who is ordered to provide and pay for health insurance.
 - d. Provision for child support in accordance with the guidelines in the Texas Family Code. CHILD SUPPORT CANNOT BE WAIVED without approval of the Court which will rarely be given.
 - e. If a child is not the child of the spouse but was born during the marriage, the child **MUST** be listed in the decree and paternity **MUST** be established by a prior court order. A certified copy of the court order **MUST** be presented to the Court.
 - f. If there is a prior court order which governs possession and access to a child or child support, a certified copy of that order **MUST** be presented to the Court.
8. Obtain the Bureau of Vital Statistics form from the District Clerk's office and have it completely filled out before you come to court for your divorce.
9. ALL Decrees of Divorce **MUST** be submitted to the Judge hearing the case upon the call of the docket on the final hearing date.

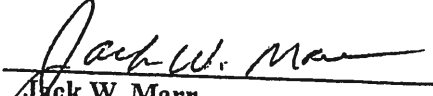
10. All Court settings shall be obtained by calling the Jackson County District Clerk's office at 361-782-6151.

The District Clerk's office shall provide a copy of these instructions to all parties filing a *pro se* divorce petition.


SIGNED AND ORDERED THIS THE 31st DAY OF May, 2017.



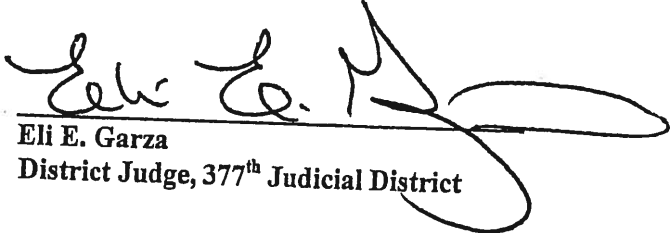
Kenper Stephen Williams
District Judge, 135th Judicial District



Jack W. Marr
District Judge, 24th Judicial District



Bobby Bell
District Judge, 267th Judicial District



Eli E. Garza
District Judge, 377th Judicial District