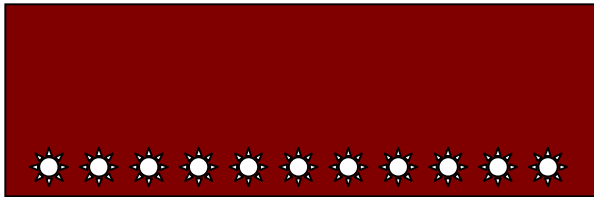


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You must:

- Complete and exchange sworn Financial Affidavits (form JD-FM-6) within 30 days of the return date. A Financial Affidavit is a special form on which you must disclose your wages and other sources of income, your assets, and your debts and expenses;
- Participate in a parenting education class within 60 days of the return date;
- Attend a Case Management Conference on the date specified on the Notice of Automatic Orders (which will be determined by the court clerk) unless you both agree on all issues and file a Case Management Agreement form with the court clerk on or before that date;
- Tell the other person (or her/his attorney, if she/he is represented by one) in writing within 48 hours about your new address or a place where you can receive mail if you move out of the family home (if you share children under the age of 18);
- Help any children you share to continue their usual contact with both parents in person, by telephone and in writing.

If you object to the Automatic Court Orders or if you want them changed, you have the right to a hearing before a Judge within in a reasonable time, by filing a Motion to Modify these orders with the court clerk.



“Client-Focused Legal Solutions”

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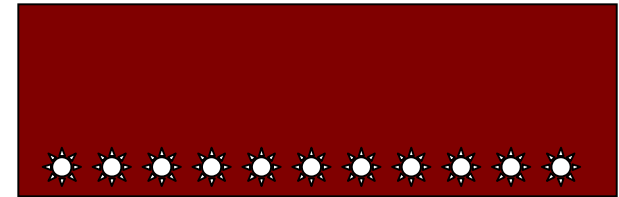
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Law Offices of Irene C. Olszewski, LLC



**THE DIVORCE
PROCESS
IN
CONNECTICUT**



AN OVERVIEW

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In the State of Connecticut, you may obtain a divorce using 1) the traditional litigation (court-based) model, 2) collaborative divorce or 3) mediation.

Divorce, known in Connecticut as a “dissolution of marriage,” is governed by Connecticut General Statutes 46b-40 through 46b-89. While there are many grounds on which you may file for divorce, Connecticut also provides for “no-fault” divorce. That means that you do not have to prove that your spouse is at fault, only that the marriage has “broken down irretrievably” and there is no hope of getting back together. Your spouse does not have to agree to divorce in order for you to file for a dissolution. Only one person has to claim that the marriage has “irretrievably broken down.”

Under Connecticut law, there is a ninety-day waiting period from the time you commence the divorce action until it becomes final. If your divorce is complicated (for example, you have property or custody issues to resolve), the time it will take to finalize your divorce may be longer than ninety days.

The commencement of a divorce action requires that specific forms (including a Summons and Complaint, among others) be completed and served upon your spouse by a marshal. There are certain costs involved in filing for divorce, which include the fee for the



marshal to serve the Summons and Complaint, as well as the court’s filing fee. If you have minor children (under the age of 18), you are required to participate in a parenting education program. Under certain circumstances, you may motion the court to exempt you from such classes (for example, if your youngest child is nearly 18 at the time you file for divorce). If you fall below certain income requirements, the court may grant you a waiver of some or all of the fees if you complete the proper application. Your attorney’s fees will vary, depending on the complexity of your particular case.

If you have minor children (under the age of 18) born to the marriage, the Court will address issues such as custody, visitation, child support and future educational support. Child Support is based upon recognized guidelines and is not determined arbitrarily.

Depending upon a variety of circumstances, the issue of alimony (spousal support) may also be addressed.

This is not, by any means, an exhaustive list of issues that may arise in your divorce action. Every set of circumstances has its own issues. A consultation with a licensed attorney may be helpful and is strongly advised.

Along with the Summons and Complaint, a Notice of Automatic Court Orders (form JD-



FM-158) must be served upon the other party by a marshal. The following summarizes what each party can and cannot do while your divorce is pending. Failure to obey the Automatic Court Orders may be punishable by being held in Contempt of Court.

You cannot:

- Sell, mortgage or give away any property without written agreement or a court order;
- Go into unreasonable debt by borrowing money or using credit cards or cash advances;
- Permanently take your children from Connecticut without written agreement or court order;
- Take each other or your children off any existing medical, hospital, doctor or dental insurance policy or let any such insurance policy expire;
- Change the terms or named beneficiaries of any existing insurance policy or let any existing insurance coverage expire. This includes life, automobile, homeowner’s or renter’s insurance;
- Deny use of the family home to the other person without a court order, if you are living together on the date the divorce papers are served.

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