

## **Summary Dissolution Self Help Information/Procedural Guidelines**

A shorter and easier process of getting a divorce is called a Summary Dissolution. Not everyone can use this process. **Please read the Summary Dissolution Information Booklet (form FL-810) to make sure this is the appropriate process for you, and to assist you in completing the forms.** By signing the Joint Petition for Summary Dissolution, both parties are stating that they have both read and understand the information booklet.

A Summary Dissolution is possible for couples who meet the following criteria:

- have no children together
- have been married for less than 5 years (from date of marriage to date of separation)
- don't own more than \$43,000.00 in property
- don't owe more than \$6,000.00 in debt
- have no disagreements about how their belongings and their debts are going to be divided up once they are no longer married to each other.

With this procedure you won't have to appear in court. You may not need a lawyer, but it may be in your best interest to see a lawyer about the ending of your marriage.

### **Print and complete the documents in the order that they are listed.**

Forms beginning with "FL" can be located at [www.courts.ca.gov/forms.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/forms.htm)

Forms beginning with "L" are found at [www.occourts.org/forms/formslocal.html](http://www.occourts.org/forms/formslocal.html)

1. *Summary Dissolution Information* (form FL-810)
2. *Joint Petition For Summary Dissolution Of Marriage* (FL-800 & FL-800 Instructions)
3. *Family Law Declaration Re: Related Cases* (L-1120)
4. *Judgment of Dissolution and Notice of Entry of Judgment* (form FL-825)

You must also provide the Court with two self-addressed, stamped envelopes.

**The Joint Petition must have the signatures of both parties.** Only one party can be listed as the submitting party (this is the person listed in the top left corner of the document.)

### **Court fees for filing the Summary Dissolution are \$435.00.**

You may pay this fee with cash, a personal check, cashier's check, money order, or credit card.

**Make 2 copies** (front and back) of all forms that you wish to file with the court. Bring them to the Clerk's Office filing counter with the forms that have your original signatures on them. If you want the court to make your copies, the fee is \$.50 per page.

Once the original forms have been filed with the court, a set of copies should go to each party. There is no need to serve copies on the other party, since both parties have agreed to the dissolution of marriage.

**Note:** The clerk will stamp the Judgment with the date the marriage is ended.