

## General information about response to petition for annulment- without minor children

Annulment in Arizona: An annulment in Arizona is a judgment of a marriage to be null and void. The annulment legal process requires certain statements to the Court showing reasons the purported marriage is invalid from the beginning, as if it had never taken place. You must have a legal reason to file for annulment. NOTE: *The Arizona statutory definition of annulment (A.R.S. § 25-301) is not the same as annulment defined by certain religions.*

90 DAY Requirement to File for an Annulment in Arizona: You or your spouse must have made *Arizona your home*, or have been stationed in Arizona while a member of the Armed Forces, *for AT LEAST 90 (Ninety) DAYS before you file the Annulment Petition with the Court.*

Covenant marriage: A covenant marriage in Arizona is a legally distinct kind of marriage in which the marrying couple agrees to obtain pre-marital counseling and accept more strict grounds for divorce. The Arizona covenant marriage emphasizes the belief that marriage is more than just a contract between two individuals and requires specific statements of mutual commitment. If you have questions as to whether your marriage is a covenant marriage, look for the words “Covenant Marriage” on your marriage license, or see an attorney for help. These forms may not be used if you have a covenant marriage.

Domestic Violence: Domestic violence can be a part of any relationship. Domestic violence is also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, and family violence. Domestic violence can be a pattern of abusive behaviors by one partner against another in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family, or living together. Domestic violence has many forms, including physical aggression or assault (hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining, slapping, throwing objects), or threats; verbal abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, controlling or domineering behavior, intimidation, stalking, or passive abuse, such as neglect.

Court documents request your address and telephone number. If you are a victim of domestic violence, you may want to protect yourself from further violence by protecting your residential address. To do this, get a P.O. Box, or use another address. Also, you must file a “Petition for Order of Protection” and ask that your address NOT be disclosed on court papers.

With an Order of Protection, you do not need to put your address and phone number on your divorce papers. Instead of your address and phone number, just write “protected” in the space where the court asks you for this information. However, you must tell the Clerk of Superior Court your address and phone number as soon as possible.

Annulment Papers Served: You should have received the following papers from your spouse:

- **SUMMONS:** Tells you:
  - 1) A court action has been filed against you,
  - 2) You are required to appear and answer the complaint in this action, and
  - 3) How many calendar days you have to file your response.
  
- **PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION:** Is a court order that tells you and your spouse what you can and cannot do with property and other issues while the annulment is pending. If you or your spouse violate this order you can be in serious trouble with the court. If your spouse violates this order, the Law Library Resource Center has a list of lawyers who could help you help yourself act on the violation.
  
- **PETITION FOR ANNULMENT:** Informs you about what your spouse stated to the Court, about the reason(s) for the annulment.
  
- **NOTICE OF RIGHT TO CONVERT HEALTH INSURANCE:** Explains what to do about health care coverage for you. Read it carefully.
  
- **NOTICE REGARDING CREDITORS:** Explains about your responsibility for debts as a result of an Annulment.

Remember: Contact an attorney if you are unsure whether an annulment is right for your situation. You may follow all the correct procedures and get all the way to your court hearing, only to find the judge does not find legal grounds for an annulment. If that happens, you must choose another option. You could save time and MONEY to find legal advice before you begin the annulment paperwork.