

Instructions and Procedures for a Default Decree
by Motion, without a Hearing

REQUIREMENTS

Sometimes a court hearing is not required to get a default decree. If you meet the following requirements, you may use this “no hearing” process to request a default decree:

- ✓ All parties must be legally competent and sane.
- ✓ The “*Summons*” and “*Petition*” were served to the other party, other than by publication
- ✓ The “*Petition*” requests to the Court are the same as the requests proposed in the default order.

This means, you cannot use this process if . . .

- the responding party was served by publication,
- if the other party is insane or incompetent, or
- if the other party has filed a response, or made an appearance in the cases, or
- the requests to the Court in the proposed default order are not the same as those requested in the “*Petition*.”

You must have already filed and mailed to the other party an “*Application and Affidavit for Default*.” Also, it must be at least ten (10) court (business) days since you filed and mailed the “*Application*.”

If you filed for divorce, legal separation or annulment, it must also have been at least 60 calendar days since service of the “*Summons*” and “*Petition*” was completed.

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the “*Motion and Affidavit for Default Decree without a Hearing*”

1. Complete the top part of the page with your personal information, name of parties, and case number.
2. On the upper page right, mark the box that describes the kind of court order you are requesting (i.e. divorce, annulment, etc.)
3. SECTION A:
 - Read the information carefully.
 - Mark the boxes in front of the statements that are true.
4. SECTION B: (To be completed only by parties seeking a decree of dissolution, legal separation, or annulment)
 - Mark the boxes that best apply to your situation.
 - NOTE: ATTACHMENTS. If you marked a box next to a statement that requires an “attachment”, be sure to attach the required document at the end of the original “*Motion and Affidavit for Default Decree without a Hearing*.” If you are missing an attachment or any required document, your case could be rescheduled for a hearing, which extends the process and delays your decree or court order.
5. SECTION C: (To be completed only by parties seeking a judgment of paternity/maternity, and/or legal decision-making, parenting time or child support.)
 - Mark the boxes that best apply to your situation.
 - If the statement next to the box asks for an explanation, write it clearly in black ink.
 - NOTE: ATTACHMENTS. If you marked a box next to a statement that requires an “attachment”, be sure to attach the required document at the end of the original “*Motion and Affidavit for Default Decree without a Hearing*.” If you are missing an attachment or any required document, your case could be rescheduled for a hearing, which extends the process and delays your decree or court order.

6. SECTION D: To be completed if it applies to you.
NOTE: ATTACHMENTS. If you marked a box next to a statement that requires an “attachment”, be sure to attach the required document at the end of the original “*Motion and Affidavit for Default Decree without a Hearing.*” If you are missing an attachment or any required document, your case could be rescheduled for a hearing, which extends the process and delays your decree or court order.
7. OATH or Affirmation: Sign and date this in front of the Clerk of Superior Court or Notary, with a picture identification.
8. COPY: Make two copies of the original “*Motion and Affidavit for Default Decree **without** a Hearing,*” with ALL the REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS.

Complete the Default Decree / Judge / Order

1. See the instructions in this packet to complete the Default Decree / Judgment / Order.
2. If children are involved, there will be additional forms to complete, such as a Parenting Plan, Child Support Worksheet, and Child Support Order. See additional instructions in this packet.
3. COPY:
 - Make two (2) copies of the original “*Decree / Judge / Order*”, plus attachments and any addition required forms.
 - Note: If you are missing an attachment or any required form, your case could be rescheduled for a hearing, which extends the process and delays your decree or court order.

After completing instructions above, you are ready to complete the Decree/Order, also in this packet. However, BEFORE YOU REQUEST Default Decree by Motion Without A Hearing, CHECK TO BE SURE THAT YOU:

- Properly served the “*Petition*”, Summons and other papers to other party and filed the proof of service. (Service cannot be done by publication if you are using this method (without a hearing)), AND
- Completed and filed the “*Application and Affidavit for Default,*” with ALL the REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS and mailed a copy to the other party; AND
- IF the other party is on active duty in the United State Military, you completed and notarized “*Service Member Civil Relief Act Waiver*”, AND
- Waited at least 61 days after the completion of service, if you filed for divorce, legal separation or annulment.

PROCEDURES

1. FILE the original “*Motion and Affidavit for Default Decree without a Hearing,*” with ALL the REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS, and two copies with all the attachments at one of the following Clerk of Superior Court locations.
 - The Clerk of Superior Court will keep the original “*Motion*” and all the attachments, as well as date-stamp the copy, and return both copies to you.

<u>Central Court Building</u> 201 West Jefferson, 1 st floor Phoenix, Arizona 85003	<u>Southeast Court Complex</u> 222 East Javelina Avenue, 1st floor Mesa, Arizona 85210
<u>Northwest Court Complex</u> 14264 West Tierra Buena Lane Surprise, Arizona 85374	<u>Northeast Court Complex</u> 18380 North 40 th Street Phoenix, Arizona 85032

2. HAND-DELIVER OR MAIL the following documents as indicated below to the Family Department:
- One (1) file-stamped copy of the *“Motion and Affidavit for Default Decree without a Hearing”* with all attachments.
 - The original and two (2) copies of the *“Decree / Judge / Order”* and related forms and attachments for signature by the Judge.
 - Two (2) 9" x 12" envelopes with sufficient postage, one addressed to you, and one addressed to the other party.

<u>Central Court Building</u> 201 West Jefferson, 3 rd floor Phoenix, Arizona 85003 (To <i>Family</i> Department)	<u>Southeast Court Complex</u> 222 East Javelina Avenue, 1st floor Mesa, Arizona 85210 (To <i>Family</i> Department)
<u>Northwest Court Complex</u> 14264 West Tierra Buena Lane Surprise, Arizona 85374 (To Family Department)	<u>Northeast Court Complex</u> 18380 North 40 th Street Phoenix, Arizona 85032 (To Family Department)

3. WAIT. There is a review process upon receipt of your paperwork. This process can take as long as 4-6 weeks. You can call Family Department: (602) 372-3332 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to check on the status of your case. Please wait at least four (4) weeks before checking the status.

The Judge will review your file and the documents you have submitted.

- If the Judge determines that everything is in order they will sign the final decree. The Clerk will file-stamp your copies and they will be mailed to you and the other party in the envelopes you have provided.
- If the Judge finds anything wrong with your court file or paperwork, your documents will be returned to you in the envelope you have provided along with a coversheet describing the deficiency and in most cases how it can be corrected.

Common reasons why your paperwork may be rejected:

- Incomplete: The *“Decree”* was not fully completed.
 - Not all applicable boxes were marked.
 - An explanation(s) was missing
 - An attachment(s) was missing
- Different Requests: Items asked for in the *“Decree”* were not the same as the items asked for in the *“Petition.”*
- Missing Documents: The original *“Decree”* and copies were not submitted with the *“Motion and Affidavit for Default Decree without Hearing”*.
- Overlooked *“True”* Statements: You did not mark all boxes on the *“Motion and Affidavit for Default Decree without Hearing”* as true statements.
- No notarized Waiver: Did not provide a notarized *“Service Members Civil Relief Act Waiver.”*

Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure (ARFLP), Rule 44.1, allows for application for a default decree *without hearing* in Family cases for divorce, legal separation, annulment, maternity or paternity, money judgments, attorney fees, and spousal maintenance, but be WARNED:

- There are special legal requirements involved in qualifying for an annulment, and a default decree with no hearing.
- If your court papers do not fully explain how you meet those requirements, it could result in your case being delayed or dismissed.
- Consulting an experienced attorney about whether your situation *and your papers* indicate you qualify for an annulment or a default decree, may help you to avoid unnecessary expense, delay, and disappointment.

Person Filing: _____
Address (if not protected): _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Telephone: _____
Email Address: _____
ATLAS Number: _____
Lawyer's Bar Number: _____

FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

Representing Self, without a Lawyer or Attorney for Petitioner OR Respondent

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA IN MARICOPA COUNTY

In the Marriage of

Case No. _____

Name of Petitioner / Party A

MOTION AND AFFIDAVIT FOR DEFAULT DECREE WITHOUT HEARING for:

and

- DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (Divorce)
 LEGAL SEPARATION
 ANNULMENT
 MATERNITY/PATERNITY
 ESTABLISH LEGAL DECISION-MAKING /
PARENTING TIME / CHILD SUPPORT
A.R.F.L.P. 44.1

Name of Respondent / Party B

I am the Petitioner / Party A and I am asking the Court to enter a **“Decree” of Dissolution of Marriage,** **“Legal Separation,”** **“Annulment,”** or **“Maternity/Paternity,”** or an **“Order” establishing legal-decision-making** by default without a court hearing.

SECTION A:

I have marked each box in front of the statements below that are true and I understand that if any statement is not true, I cannot get a default decree *without a hearing*.

- I have read this **“Motion and Affidavit for Default Decree without a Court Hearing”** and to the best of my knowledge everything I said is true.
- I have paid the filing and service fees or the filing and service fees were waived or deferred. A copy of the receipt showing payment or a copy of the Order showing that the fees were waived or deferred is attached.
- To the best of my knowledge, both Party A and Party B are competent and sane at this time (even if “legal incompetence” or “insanity” *at the time of the marriage* is listed as a ground for an annulment).

- At least 60 days have passed since the other Party (Respondent) was served with the dissolution, legal separation, or annulment papers. OR my case is to establish maternity/paternity and/or legal decision-making / parenting time / child support and there is no 60 day waiting period.
- Service was not done by publication.
- Party B has not made an appearance in this matter or filed a **“Response.”** I filed the **“Application and Affidavit for Default”** and Default has been entered against the other Party.
- At the time this action was filed, Party A or Party B was domiciled in Arizona or was stationed in Arizona while a member of the United States Armed Forces. If this is an action for dissolution of marriage (divorce) or annulment, Party A or Party B was domiciled or stationed in Arizona for more than 90 days, at the time the Petition was filed.
- My case does not involve a member of the military waiving service **OR** - I have submitted a notarized **“Service Members Civil Relief Act Waiver”** completed by the other party.

SECTION B.

I am requesting Judgment of DISSOLUTION, LEGAL SEPARATION, or ANNULMENT.

YES - If YES, answer each question below.

NO - If NO, skip to Section C.

Conciliation Services provisions have been met since the filing of the Petition, or the provisions do not apply. This must be true to proceed. (A.R.S. § 25-381.09).

Covenant Marriage: Our marriage IS or IS NOT a covenant marriage.

Pregnancy: Neither party Party A Party B is pregnant with a child common to the parties.

Choose only one that applies:

If seeking divorce, the marriage is irretrievably broken.

If seeking legal separation, the parties desire to live separate and apart.

If seeking annulment, a condition exists which renders the marriage void or voidable.

Spousal Maintenance: (choose only one)

- Party A or Party B has made a claim for spousal maintenance/support and Form 6 “(Default Information for Spousal Maintenance”) is attached to this Motion and Affidavit.
- Party A or Party B has NOT made a claim for spousal maintenance/support, and the claim is deemed waived by **both** parties.

Property and Debt: (choose all that apply)

- There was no property or debt obtained during the marriage.
- Does not apply because (explain): _____

- All of the allegations, including those concerning property and debts listed in the **“Petition”** were true at the time filed and remain true as of the date of the filing of this motion and affidavit, **OR any changes are explained below:**

- I attached a list of all community property and debt (obtained or incurred during the marriage), including personal property, motor vehicles, bank accounts, retirement assets, life insurance, real property, including the **value** and the **party to whom the property or debt is to be awarded**. The attached list also includes any requests for the award of sole and separate property and debt.

- Everything in the **“Petition for Dissolution of Marriage,” “Legal Separation,” or for “Annulment,”** concerning who gets the property and who pays the bills/debts is fair and reasonable.

- I have requested reasonable attorney fees and support for this request is **attached** to this Motion and Affidavit.

- Same as Petition: The requests in this form and relief to be awarded in the **“Decree”** are the same as the relief I requested in the underlying **“Petition,” OR** if the relief to be awarded is different, it has been approved by both parties, as reflected in a notarized statement from the other party, or a **“Decree”** containing the notarized signatures of both parties. This must be true to proceed.

SECTION C.

I am requesting a Judgment of MATERNITY or PATERNITY and/or an Order for LEGAL DECISION-MAKING / PARENTING TIME / CHILD SUPPORT.

YES - If YES, answer each question below.

NO - If NO, skip to Section D.

The name and date of birth of each child is:

Name: _____	Date of Birth: _____
Name: _____	Date of Birth: _____
Name: _____	Date of Birth: _____
Name: _____	Date of Birth: _____
Name: _____	Date of Birth: _____

The factual basis for the finding of maternity / paternity is: _____

The child(ren) live with: _____

Length of Residence: The child has lived in Arizona for at least six (6) months before the filing of the Petition or is less than six (6) months old and has lived in Arizona since birth.

There are no proceedings involving the child that are pending in **another jurisdiction. OR**

There are other proceedings involving the child that are pending in **another jurisdiction** and I have listed the court name(s) and case number(s) below:

Court Name(s) _____
Case Number(s) _____

There are no proceedings involving the child that are pending in **another court. OR**

There are other proceedings involving the child that are pending in **other courts** and I have listed the court name(s) and case number(s) below:

Court Name(s) _____
Case Number(s) _____

State of Arizona Request:

Does not apply. OR

The State of Arizona has requested the default judgment of paternity. The factual basis for the finding of paternity is described above.

Child Support:

I have attached the required Child Support Worksheet. Child Support is based on the following:

The Arizona Child Support Guidelines OR

A deviation from the Arizona Child Support Guidelines because: _____

Other: _____

The basis for determining the gross income of the defaulting party is: _____

SECTION D:

Attorney Fees: I have attached an itemized bill for a reasonable amount of attorney fees to support this request.

Money Judgment(s): I have attached the calculations to establish the sum of requested money to support this request.

Other requested relief. I have attached the following document, to establish the facts supporting the request: _____

OATH OR AFFIRMATION AND VERIFICATION

I swear or affirm that the information on this document is true and correct under penalty of perjury.

Signature

Date

STATE OF _____

COUNTY OF _____

Subscribed and sworn to or affirmed before me this: _____ by
(Date)

(Notary seal)

Deputy Clerk of Court or Notary Public