You can apply online

Divorce – www.gov.uk/apply-for-divorce

Dissolution – www.gov.uk/end-civil-partnership

Application for a divorce or dissolution (ending a civil partnership)

HMCTS USE ONLY

If you are a legal representative you must apply through the My HMCTS Solicitor Portal for a Divorce or Dissolution otherwise your application will be rejected. You can find more information at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/myhmcts-online-case-management-for-legal-professionals

You can only make an application for divorce or dissolution if you have been in your marriage or civil partnership for at least one year.

If there are exceptional reasons why your application should be dealt with urgently then please set those reasons out in a covering letter.

 © Crown copyright 2025

Relationship support and child arrangements

Where it may be helpful (and safe) to receive relationship support, you can find information at: www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/other-services/Relationship%20counselling/LocationSearch/400

You can also find information on making child arrangements if you divorce or separate at: www.gov.uk/looking-after-children-divorce

Note: If you entered into a religious marriage as well as a civil marriage, these divorce proceedings may not dissolve the religious part of your marriage. It is important that you contact the relevant religious authority and seek further guidance if you are unsure.

Note 1.2: How you divide your money and property is dealt with separately. You may wish to consider taking legal advice.

It should not affect your decision on whether to do a sole or a joint application.

Any application for costs should be made using form **D11** application notice. This is available on the gov.uk website.

For marriages/civil partnerships in England and Wales you can order a copy of the certificate at www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates. You will need to pay for each copy.

In cases of urgency it may be possible for you to make an application to allow you to deliver the original or a certified copy of the marriage/ civil partnership certificate to the court at a later date, if the document is unavailable. To do this, you will need to complete and file the **D11** application notice. This is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/form-d11-application-notice

---

Section 1 – Your application

1.1 What application are you making?

- ☐ **Divorce** on the ground that the marriage has broken down irretrievably
- ☐ **Dissolution** on the ground that the civil partnership has broken down irretrievably

1.2 Are you applying as a sole applicant or joint applicants?

☐ **A sole application** – I am applying on my own.

You will complete this application on your own before you submit it to the court. The court will send a copy of your application to your spouse/civil partner.

You will be referred to as the sole applicant, and your spouse/civil partner will be referred to as the respondent in this application.

☐ **A joint application** – We are applying together.

You and your spouse/civil partner will complete this application jointly before you submit to the court.

You will be referred to as applicant 1 and your spouse/civil partner as applicant 2 in this application.

Applicant 2 must complete section 3 and the statement of truth.

1.3 What documents are you supplying to support your application?

- ☐ Your marriage or civil partnership certificate or a certified copy of the certificate from where you got married or entered into a civil partnership (a photocopy will **not** be accepted).
- ☐ A translation that has been certified by a notary public or authenticated by a statement of truth by the person who did the translation. This should be provided if your marriage or civil partnership certificate (or a similar document issued under the law in the country you registered your marriage or civil partnership) is not in English.

Section 2 – About you

(the sole applicant or applicant 1)

Note 2.1: This can be different to the one on your marriage or civil partnership certificate. This can be your last name, your spouse/ civil partner's last name or a double barrelled last name that combines the two. If you have changed your name, other than through your marriage, since you got married you must attach a copy of your change of name deed or otherwise explain why your name has changed.

2.1 Full name of the sole applicant or applicant 1

First name(s)

Middle name(s)

Last name

Is this either your married name or the name shown on your marriage or civil partnership certificate?

☐ Yes

☐ No. Attach your change of name deed/ statutory declaration or if this is not applicable, explain why your name has changed

Note 2.2: If you do not wish to disclose your contact details to the respondent, please tick 'Yes' and complete question 2.3 below.

2.2 Do you wish to keep your contact details confidential from your spouse or civil partner?

☐ Yes. Please keep my details confidential.

☐ No

Note 2.3: You should give a home address in the UK, if you have one. The court will send papers to your home address, or you can provide a business address in the UK. If you want to supply an address outside of the UK, different rules may apply about documents being sent to you. You may wish to seek legal advice.

Remember information contained in this form will be sent to your spouse/ civil partner. If you do not want them to know your current contact details, make sure you have ticked 'Yes' at question 2.2, and the court will not disclose these details.

If you have not provided an email address, the court will send a copy of the issued application to your postal address.

2.3 What is your address and contact details?

Building and street

Second line of address

Town or city

County (optional)

Country

Postcode

Phone number (if you have one)

Email (if you have one)

Note 2.4: For a solicitor completing this application: references to 'solicitor' in this form includes any person who, for the purposes of the Legal Services Act 2007, is an authorised person in relation to an activity which constitutes the conduct of litigation (within the meaning of that Act)

2.4 Do you have a solicitor?

☐ Yes. **Complete the following questions (2.5 – 2.8)**

☐ No. **Go to Section 3.**

2.5 The solicitor's name

2.6 The solicitor's reference number (if applicable)

2.7 Name of the solicitor's firm

2.8 Address of solicitor's firm

Building and street

Second line of address

Town or city

County (optional)

Country

Postcode

DX address (if applicable)

Phone number

Email

Section 3 – About the respondent or applicant 2

If you are applying as a sole applicant, complete this section with the respondent's details.

If applying jointly, applicant 2 must complete this section. Applicant 1 should continue to complete the form at Section 4.

Note: For applicant 2, this can be different to the one on your marriage or civil partnership certificate. This can be your last name, your spouse/civil partner's last name or a double barrelled last name that combines the two.

If you have changed your name, other than through your marriage, since you got married you must attach a copy of your change of name deed or otherwise explain why your name has changed.

3.1 Full name

First name(s)

Middle name(s)

Last name

3.2 Is this either the married name or the name shown on the marriage or civil partnership certificate?

☐ Yes

☐ No. Attach the change of name deed/ statutory declaration or if this is not applicable, explain why the name has changed

Note 3.3: Where the application is to be served by the court this will be served by email with a notice confirming service sent to the respondent's postal address.

3.3 What is the address of the respondent or applicant 2?

Building and street

Second line of address

Town or city

County (optional)

Country

Postcode

Phone number (if there is one)

Please insert the respondent's usual email address or an email address provided by the respondent for service (for example, their solicitor's email address). You should avoid using a work email address, as this may not be confidential.

Note: You should use the email address actively used by the respondent for personal emails. Where the respondent has a solicitor who is instructed to accept service of the application, insert the solicitor's email address here instead.

The email address should not be the same as the one given for the sole applicant/ applicant 1.

Email (if there is one)

☐ For the respondent's email address only – I confirm that to the best of my knowledge only the respondent has access to the above email account

If this is a joint application, go to question 3.7

Note 3.4: If the respondent to a sole application is not in England and Wales the applicant must arrange to serve this application on the respondent. Special rules about service may apply and you may wish to seek legal advice.

3.4 Is the application to be served on the respondent outside England and Wales?

☐ Yes. You must arrange service of this application on the respondent. **Go to question 3.6.**

☐ No

3.5 The court will serve the application on the respondent by email and a notice sent by post unless you tick one of the boxes below

☐ Serve this application by post only

☐ I will arrange service on the respondent

Note 3.6: Alternative addresses or solicitor addresses should be provided at question 3.10.

3.6 Has the respondent provided a different address for the court documents to be sent to?

☐ Yes, please complete the address details below

☐ No. **Go to Section 4**

3.7 The solicitor's name for the respondent or applicant 2 (if applicable and if known)

3.8 The solicitor's reference number (if applicable and if known)

3.9 Name of the solicitor's firm (if applicable and if known)

Note 3.10: The court will send documents to this address.

3.10 The solicitor's or other address they have provided

Building and street

Second line of address

Town or city

County (optional)

Country

Postcode

Phone number

Section 4 – Details of marriage/ civil partnership

Note: If you are applying without your marriage/ civil partnership certificate you will need to make a separate application on form **D11** (Application notice) and pay another court fee. It is recommended that you seek legal advice if you are unsure of how to do this.

You should attach your marriage or civil partnership certificate to this application, together with a certified translation in English if necessary (the court will usually keep your documents and not return them). If you do not have the original certificate and cannot get a copy of it, you will have to make a separate application, alongside this application, to issue this form without it.

4.1 Did your marriage/civil partnership take place outside of the UK?

☐ Yes

☐ No

4.2 Are you making a separate application to issue without your marriage or civil partnership certificate?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If you answered ‘Yes’ to either question 4.1 or 4.2 above, please give the place where the marriage/civil partnership was formed, as it appears on your marriage/civil partnership certificate (if any)

Note 4.3: You can only apply for a divorce/ dissolution if you have been in your marriage or civil partnership for at least one year.

4.3 Date of marriage or civil partnership

Day

Month

Year

4.4 Your full name as shown on your certificate

Your spouse/civil partner’s full name as shown on your certificate

4.5 Are the details set out in your marriage or civil partnership certificate correct?

☐ Yes

☐ No. Please explain why

Section 5 – Why this court can deal with your case (jurisdiction)

The court needs to understand why you think it has the legal power (jurisdiction) to deal with your application.

Please complete section 5.1 or if that section does not apply to you then complete section 5.2.

Important: If you need help deciding which reasons apply to you then you should consider seeking legal advice, particularly if you live outside England and Wales.

5.1 The usual basis for the court to have jurisdiction is where one or both parties are habitually resident in England and Wales.

Habitual Residence

Your habitual residence is the place in which your life is mainly based. You must be settled there and intend to stay settled there. Some of the following may apply: you work there, own property, have your children in school there, and your main family life takes place there.

Domicile

Your domicile is the place of your permanent home in which you live, or to which you intend to return.

When you were born you will have acquired your parents' domicile (for example, your father's if they were married, or your mother's if they weren't married or if your father died before you were born). If you have since moved to another country and made that your permanent home then your domicile may have moved there.

If you were born in England or Wales, lived your entire life here, and intend to stay here, then it is very likely that you'll be **both habitually resident and domiciled** here.

As the court will need to know the reason(s) for why you think it has jurisdiction to deal with the application, tick the reason(s) from the list on the next the page.

Please tick the reasons that apply:

- ☐ both parties to the marriage/civil partnership are habitually resident in England and Wales;
- ☐ both parties to the marriage/civil partnership were last habitually resident in England and Wales and one of them continues to reside there;
- ☐ the respondent is habitually resident in England and Wales;
- ☐ this is a joint application and either
  - ☐ applicant 1

  or

  - ☐ applicant 2

  is habitually resident in England and Wales;
- ☐ the applicant is habitually resident in England and Wales and has resided there for at least one year immediately before the application was made;

- ☐ the applicant is domiciled and habitually resident in England and Wales and has resided there for at least six months immediately before the application was made;
- ☐ both parties to the marriage/civil partnership are domiciled in England and Wales; **or**
- ☐ only
  - ☐ applicant/applicant 1
  - ☐ applicant 2
  - ☐ respondent

  is domiciled in England and Wales.

OR for civil partnerships or same sex marriages only

5.2 If the options in section 5.1 do not apply to you, please consider if the below is applicable:

☐ the parties registered as civil partners of each other in England or Wales or, in the case of a same sex couple, married each other under the law of England and Wales and it would be in the interests of justice for the court to assume jurisdiction in this case.

Section 6 – Statement of (judicial) separation (the legal reason for your separation)

6.1 You must state that you seek to be judicially separated from the other party to the marriage or civil partnership in order for the court to make an order.

If a joint application, applicant 1 and applicant 2 must each make a statement by ticking the box that applies to them.

Sole applicant or applicant 1

☐ I confirm that my marriage or civil partnership has broken down irretrievably

Applicant 2 (if a joint application)

☐ I confirm that my marriage or civil partnership has broken down irretrievably

Section 7 – Existing or previous court cases

Note 7: Joint applicants should complete the details necessary together in the same box provided.

7.1 Are there any existing or previous court proceedings relating to your marriage/civil partnership or affecting its validity (including any existing or concluded court proceedings overseas)?

☐ Yes, please give details below

☐ No

Case number(s)

Summary of the existing or previous court proceedings

Section 8 – Dividing your money and property – Orders which are sought

Money and property when you divorce or separate You may be able to solve your financial and other arrangements outside of court, for example through mediation. You can find more information on mediation at www.gov.uk/money-property-when-relationship-ends/mediation

You can apply to the court about how your money, property, pensions and other assets should be split. These are called financial orders and may include

- an order for maintenance pending suit/ outcome
- periodical payments order
- secured provision order
- lump sum order
- property adjustment order
- Pension sharing/compensation sharing/ attachment order

You can apply for orders for yourself, and/or, if appropriate for your children.

If you agree with your spouse or civil partner about how your property, money, pensions and other assets will be split, and want it to be legally binding, you can apply for a financial order to be made by consent.

If you disagree with your spouse or civil partner about how your property, money, pensions and other assets will be split, then you can ask the court to decide for you.

8.1 Do you want to apply for a financial order?

If you answer 'Yes' to question 8.1 the court will take no action at this stage. To formally start financial proceedings, you will also need to complete a separate application **Form A** or **Form A1** and pay another court fee.

You can find more guidance on financial orders and how to get help agreeing on any issues at www.gov.uk/money-property-when-relationship-ends/apply-for-a-financial-order

If you answer 'No' to question 8.1 you can still apply for a financial order in the future, but only **until you remarry or form** another **civil partnership**. This restriction does not apply to pension sharing or pension compensation sharing orders.

If you are unsure what to do here it is recommended you seek legal advice.

Please note that decisions regarding child maintenance are usually made by agreement or by the Child Maintenance Service and the court can only make these orders under certain circumstances.

8.1 Do you want to apply for a financial order?

Sole applicant or applicant 1

☐ Yes, I want to apply for a financial order for (select all that apply)

- ☐ myself
- ☐ the children

☐ No

Applicant 2

☐ Yes, I want to apply for a financial order for (select all that apply)

- ☐ myself
- ☐ the children

☐ No

Section 9 – Summary of what is being applied for (the prayer)

The sole applicant or the joint applicants apply for the following:

9.1 The application

That the

☐ marriage be dissolved

☐ civil partnership be dissolved

The sole applicant or applicant 1 wishes to apply for the following

9.2 Financial Order (if you ticked ‘Yes’ to the question at 8.1 and wish to make an application for a Financial Order)

That a financial order may be granted for:

☐ The sole applicant or applicant 1

☐ For the children

Applicant 2 wishes to apply for the following

9.3 Financial Order (if you ticked 'Yes' to the question at 8.1 and wish to make an application for a Financial Order)

That a financial order may be granted for:

☐ Applicant 2

☐ For the children

Section 10 – Statement of truth

10.1 Sole applicant or applicant 1

I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

☐ **I believe** that the facts stated in this form and any continuation sheets are true.

☐ **The applicant** believes that the facts stated in this form and any continuation sheets are true. I am authorised by the applicant to sign this statement.

You **must** sign and date the statement of truth. If you do not, the court will return your application.

Your signature

Signed by the

☐ Applicant

☐ Applicant's legal representative (as defined by FPR 2.3(1))

Date

Day Month Year

Full name of person signing this form

Name of applicant's legal representative's firm

If signing on behalf of firm or company give position or office held

10.2 Applicant 2

I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

☐ **I believe** that the facts stated in this form and any continuation sheets are true.

☐ **The applicant** believes that the facts stated in this form and any continuation sheets are true. **I am authorised** by the applicant to sign this statement.

You **must** sign and date the statement of truth. If you do not, the court will return your application.

Your signature

Signed by the

☐ Applicant

☐ Applicant's legal representative (as defined by FPR 2.3(1))

Date

Day Month Year

Full name of person signing this form

Name of applicant's legal representative's firm

If signing on behalf of firm or company give position or office held

Court fee

Court fee

You can find the current fee in leaflet EX50 Civil and Family Court Fees which can be downloaded from: www.gov.uk/government/collections/court-and-tribunal-forms

If you cannot afford the court fee

You may not have to pay a fee, or you may get some money off it if you only have a small amount of savings and investments, receive certain benefits or are on a low income.

You can apply for help with court and tribunal fees online at www.gov.uk/help-with-court-fees or through the ‘EX160 Apply for help with fees’ form and ‘EX160A – How to apply for help with fees’ guidance.

What you need to pay

the court fee is

How to pay the court fee

Sole or applicant 1

☐ **I have not included payment because**

☐ I have applied for Help with Fees (HWF) online and my reference number is

H	W	F						

☐ I am applying for Help with Fees, see attached form **EX160**

☐ Other – explain why

Applicant 2

If applying jointly, both applicant 1 and applicant 2 must qualify for HWF, or the full fee will be payable by one applicant only. You can decide how you wish to share the cost of the fee. Then you must agree who will make the payment to the court.

☐ **I have not included payment because**

- ☐ I have applied for Help with Fees (HWF) online and my reference number is

H	W	F						

- ☐ I am applying for Help with Fees, see attached form **EX160**
- ☐ Other – explain why

A debit or credit card payment. The court will contact you within **28 days after** you submit the application. If you have not heard from the court within this time, call 0300 303 0642 (Monday to Friday: 10am to 6pm).

☐ **A debit or credit card payment**

- ☐ I will pay over the phone.
- ☐ please email me details on how to pay, my email address is

☐ I attach a **cheque or postal order**, made payable to 'HMCTS'

When returning your form, you must include:

- **One original or certified** copy of your marriage/civil partnership certificate or a similar document issued under the law in force in the country where the marriage or civil partnership registration took place (photocopies will not be accepted). If your certificate is not in English then a certified translation must also be provided. The court will keep the documents you send. If you want them back you will need to apply for their return.
- **The court fee**

  You can find the current fee in leaflet EX50 Civil and Family Court Fees which can be downloaded from: www.gov.uk/government/collections/court-and-tribunal-forms

  If you cannot afford to pay a court fee, you may be eligible for a fee remission or a reduced fee. The form **EX160** Apply for help with fees and the EX160A guidance booklet gives you further information – www.gov.uk/get-help-with-court-fees

If you are paying by cheque please remember to include it with your application and make it payable to ‘HMCTS’.

Send your application and the items listed above to

HMCTS Divorce and Dissolution service
PO Box 13226
Harlow
CM20 9UG

Helpline

Phone: 0300 303 0642

Monday to Friday: 10am to 6pm

Email: contactdivorce@justice.gov.uk