TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
NATCHITOCHES PARISH
STATE OF LOUISIANA

SELF LITIGATION

The law allows you to file for a divorce without the assistance of an attorney. If there are children and/or property involved, we suggest that you employ an attorney to assist you in filing your divorce. **THE STAFF OF THE CLERK OF COURT'S OFFICE CANNOT ASSIST YOU OR GIVE YOU LEGAL ADVICE.**

THERE ARE NO STANDARD FORMS FOR DIVORCE, because there are different types of divorces and different circumstances in each case.

IF YOU DECIDE TO FILE FOR DIVORCE WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF AN ATTORNEY YOU MUST KNOW THE PROPER ARTICLE OF LAW THAT FITS YOUR SITUATION AND YOU MUST PREPARE ALL PETITIONS AND DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO FILE AND PROCEED WITH YOUR DIVORCE SUIT.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE BASIC STEPS REGARDING FILING FOR DIVORCE THAT YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

DIVORCE, ARTICLE 103:

1. File a "Petition for Divorce" in the office of the Clerk of Court and pay a filing fee of $200.00.
2. The petition will be served on the other party. He or she will have 15 days to file an "Answer" to your petition. If no answer is filed, you must file a written request for a "preliminary default" against the defendant. The default will be entered by the Clerk on the next available court date. You will be mailed a copy of your request for default, showing the date the default was entered.
3. When you receive this, call the Clerk's office and ask when the next civil court date will be to confirm your default.
4. On the date you plan to come to court to finalize your divorce, you must bring at least one witness and your typed "Judgment of Divorce". Before you go to the courtroom, go to the Clerk's office to ask that your file be taken to court.

DIVORCE, ARTICLE 102:

1. File a "Petition for Divorce" in the office of the Clerk of Court and pay a filing fee of $200.00.
2. The petition will be served on the other party. You must wait 180 days from the date of service before your can proceed to finalize your divorce.
3. After the 180 days have passed, you must file a "Rule for Final Divorce" in the Clerk's office and pay another deposit of $150.00. If any money is left from your initial deposit of $200.00, it can be applied to this deposit.
4. Your rule will be presented to the Judge for a sitting of a court date. You will be notified of the court date and the other party will be served with notice.
5. On the court date, you must come to Court with at least one witness and a typed "Judgment of Divorce".

The above steps are the basic procedures required for filing a divorce. Sometimes after the initial filing, situations arise regarding custody, visitation, child support, etc. If this should happen you will need to consult an attorney.