

# About Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida (CLSMF)

*The mission of CLSMF is to provide access to justice through high quality legal assistance to low-income persons.*

CLSMF is a nonprofit legal aid organization which provides free legal assistance to low-income people with civil legal problems in twelve counties across Central Florida. Since 1966, dedicated CLSMF lawyers, paralegals, legal assistants and advocates have worked diligently to solve civil legal problems for people facing life-changing situations, such as domestic violence, unlawful eviction, or the loss of veterans' health or public benefits. We are committed to delivering the highest quality legal aid, with dignity and respect, for those who are seeking access to justice.

*\*We do not provide legal assistance in criminal or traffic matters*

This brochure is for general education only. It is not intended to be used to solve individual problems.



The Florida Bar Foundation, with *Interest on Trust Accounts* program funding, provides support for this service.



**\*BREVARD:** 1-866-469-7444

## **CITRUS & SUMTER**

106 N. Osceola Avenue, Inverness, FL 34450

CITRUS: (352) 726-6592

SUMTER: 1-800-984-2918

**FLAGLER:** 1-800-405-1417

**HERNANDO:** 1-866-801-5566

**LAKE:** (352) 343-6351

226 West Main Street, Tavares, FL 32778

**MARION:** (352) 629-6257

1610 SE 36th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471

**\*ORANGE** (407) 841-7777

122 E. Colonial Drive, Suite 200, Orlando, FL 32801

**OSCEOLA:** (407) 933-1791

800 North Main Street, Kissimmee, FL 34744

**PUTNAM:** (386) 385-0928

216 S. 6th Street, Palatka, FL 32177

**\*SEMINOLE:** (407) 322-6673

315 Magnolia Ave., Sanford, FL 32771

**VOLUSIA :** (386) 258-5600

128 Orange Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32114

**Client toll-free number:** 1-800-363-2357

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:** (386)523-9181

*\* Certain legal services not offered*

info@clsmf.org

**Apply for help online at:**

**www.clsmf.org**



# SIMPLIFIED DIVORCE



Understand your rights & obligations under Florida Law

## WHAT IS A SIMPLIFIED DIVORCE?

In 1984, a divorce law went into effect in Florida allowing for a quick, simple and inexpensive divorce in certain circumstances. A lawyer is **NOT NEEDED** for this procedure.

## HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR A SIMPLIFIED DIVORCE?

You may qualify to obtain a simplified dissolution of marriage if you and/or your spouse have lived in Florida for at least 6 months and if all of the following are true:

- You and your spouse agree that the marriage cannot be saved.
- You and your spouse have no minor or dependent child(ren) together and the wife is not now pregnant.
- You and your spouse have worked out how the two of you will divide the things that you both own (your marital assets) and who will pay what part of the money you both owe (your marital liabilities), and you are both satisfied with this division.
- You are not seeking support (alimony) from your spouse, and vice versa.
- Neither you nor your spouse wish to have any financial information other than that provided in the financial affidavits.
- You are willing to give up your right to trial and appeal.
- You and your spouse are both willing to go into the clerk's office to sign the petition (not necessarily together).
- You and your spouse are both willing to go to the final hearing (at the same time).

## HOW DO I GET A SIMPLIFIED DIVORCE?

Go to the Clerk of the Court in your area. Tell the Clerk you would like to file for a simplified divorce. The Clerk will give you information to read about the procedure. After you read the information, the Clerk will give you the necessary forms to complete.

You may purchase a packet of forms from your local CLSMF office or you may obtain the forms online at [www.flcourts.org](http://www.flcourts.org).

Make an appointment for **BOTH you AND your spouse to meet with the Clerk of the Court.** During this meeting, your spouse will be required to read the same procedure information that you read.

After your spouse has read the information and all of your forms are complete, **BOTH you and your spouse can file for the simplified divorce and pay the required filing fee.** This fee is now \$408. If both you and your spouse are unemployed and have no income or assets, you may apply for a waiver of the required filing fee by signing an application for determination of civil indigent status and it is also available from the Clerk of Court or [www.flcourts.org](http://www.flcourts.org)

In addition to asking for a divorce, you may also ask the court to restore your maiden name. When you **AND your spouse file for the divorce**, a hearing date will be set. The Final Judgment should also include both spouses' dates of birth.

**BOTH you and your spouse MUST appear before the Judge to give brief testimony stating your marriage is "irretrievably broken."**

After the testimony of **BOTH you and your spouse is heard**, the Judge will give you his/her decision.

If the divorce is granted, the judge will sign your final judgment for dissolution of marriage and you and your spouse will receive a certified copy approximately one (1) week later. You will need to keep the certified copy for your records.

## CLERKS OF THE CIRCUIT COURT CIVIL DIVISION LOCATIONS

Brevard County Courthouse  
700 S. Park Avenue, Titusville

Citrus County Courthouse  
110 N. Apopka Avenue, Inverness

Flagler County Courthouse  
201 E. Moody Boulevard., Bunnell

Hernando County Courthouse  
20 N. Main Street, Brooksville

Lake County Judicial Center  
550 W. Main Street, Tavares

Marion County Courthouse  
110 NW 1st Avenue, Ocala

Orange County Courthouse  
425 N. Orange Avenue, Orlando

Osceola County Courthouse  
2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee

Putnam County Courthouse  
410 St. Johns Avenue., Palatka

Seminole County Courthouse  
N. Park Avenue, Sanford

Sumter County Courthouse  
225 E. McCollum, Bushnell

Volusia County Courthouses  
Annex -125 E. Orange Avenue, Daytona Beach  
West -101 N. Alabama Avenue, DeLand  
South -124 N. Riverside Dr. New Smyrna Beach