

**RESPONSE TO DIVORCE WITHOUT MINOR CHILDREN
HOW TO FILE YOUR ANSWER**

1. Double check that you have signed all of your documents.
2. A notary is available at the Clerk's office and you should wait until you are in front of a notary before you sign these documents.
3. Make 2 copies of all your signed documents.
4. Go to the clerk of Superior Court and have the clerk stamp all 3 copies of your Answer, Verification and Certificate of Service.
5. The clerk will keep the originals. One copy is yours to keep.
6. Mail a copy of the Answer to the other side. You may send it by regular 1st class mail, U.S. Postal Service.
7. Wait for notice of a court date or request for additional information from the court or from the other side.

Courthouse Information

Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center
ATTN: Clerk of Superior Court
75 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30046
Tel: (770) 822-8100

SUPERIOR COURT OF GWINNETT COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action
File No.: _____

Defendant.

**ANSWER AND COUNTERCLAIM
FOR DIVORCE WITHOUT MINOR CHILDREN**

ANSWER

My name is _____ and I am representing myself in this divorce action. In response to each of the numbered paragraphs of the Plaintiff's *Complaint for Divorce*, I state as follows:

[Check only one answer to match each paragraph of the Complaint; whenever you choose the "partly true" answer, you must explain on the lines about what is true and what is false.]

1. The allegations of Paragraph One are: admitted as true denied as untrue
 neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know
the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

2. The allegations of Paragraph Two are: admitted as true denied as untrue
 neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know
the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

-
3. The allegations of Paragraph Three are: admitted as true denied as untrue
 neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know
the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

4. The allegations of Paragraph Four are: admitted as true denied as untrue
 neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know
the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

5. The allegations of Paragraph Five are: admitted as true denied as untrue
 neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know
the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

6. The allegations of Paragraph Six are: admitted as true denied as untrue
 neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know
the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

7. The allegations of Paragraph Seven are: admitted as true denied as untrue
 neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know
the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

8. The allegations of Paragraph Eight are: admitted as true denied as untrue
 neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know
the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

9. The allegations of Paragraph Nine are: admitted as true denied as untrue
 neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know
the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

10. The allegations of Paragraph Ten are: admitted as true denied as untrue
 neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know
the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

11. The allegations of Paragraph Eleven are: admitted as true denied as untrue

neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

12. The allegations of Paragraph Twelve are: admitted as true denied as untrue
 neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

13. The allegations of Paragraph Thirteen are: admitted as true denied as untrue
 neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

14. The allegations of Paragraph Fourteen are: admitted as true denied as untrue
 neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

15. The allegations of Paragraph Fifteen are: admitted as true denied as untrue
 neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

16. The allegations of Paragraph Sixteen are: admitted as true denied as untrue
 neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know
the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

17. The allegations of Paragraph Seventeen are: admitted as true denied as
untrue neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to
know the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as
follows:

18. The allegations of Paragraph Eighteen are admitted as true denied as
untrue neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to
know the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as
follows:

19. The allegations of Paragraph Nineteen are admitted as true denied as
untrue neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to
know the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as
follows:

20. The allegations of Paragraph Twenty are: admitted as true denied as untrue neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

21. The allegations of Paragraph Twenty-One are: admitted as true denied as untrue neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

22. The allegations of Paragraph Twenty-Two are: admitted as true denied as untrue neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

23. The allegations of Paragraph Twenty-Three are: admitted as true denied as untrue neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough

information to know the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue,
specifically as follows:

24. The allegations of Paragraph Twenty-Four are: admitted as true denied as untrue neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

25. The allegations of Paragraph Twenty-Five are: admitted as true denied as untrue neither admitted nor denied because I do not have enough information to know the truth of the matter partly true and partly untrue, specifically as follows:

26. **Defenses** - In addition to my specific responses above, I have the following affirmative defenses to this action:

COUNTERCLAIM FOR DIVORCE

27. **Subject Matter Jurisdiction:** I am the Defendant in this action and:

[Check only one of the following, either (a) or (b).]

(a) I have been a resident of the State of Georgia for more than six (6) months immediately prior to filing this action.

(b) I am not a resident of the State of Georgia, but my spouse has been a resident of the State of Georgia for at least six (6) months immediately prior to filing this action.

28. **Venue:** My spouse is the Plaintiff in this action, and has consented to venue and personal jurisdiction by filing the *Complaint for Divorce*.

29. **Service:** The Plaintiff shall be served as provided under OCGA § 9-11-5(b), by delivering or mailing to the address listed on the *Summons*.

30. **Date of Marriage:**

[Check and complete only one of the following, either (a) or (b).]

(a) The Plaintiff and I were lawfully married on _____

(b) The Plaintiff and I are married by common law because we lived together and held ourselves out as husband and wife before January 1, 1997, beginning on _____

31. **Date of Separation:** The Plaintiff and I last separated on _____ and we have remained in a true state of separation since that date.

32. **Settlement Agreement:**

[Check only if there is a signed agreement.]

The Plaintiff and I have entered into a *Settlement Agreement*, which we both want to be incorporated into the *Final Judgment and Decree for Divorce*. The *Settlement Agreement* has been signed by each of us in front of a notary public, and I am filing the *Settlement Agreement* with the Court, together with this *Answer and Counterclaim*.

33. **Alimony:**

[Check only one of the following, either (a) or (b).]

- (a) I am financially dependent on the Plaintiff and need the Court to order the Plaintiff to pay alimony for my support.
- (b) I am not asking for alimony.

34. **Marital Property:** [Check only one of the following, either (a), (b), (c) or (d). Do not include complete account numbers.]

- (a) The Plaintiff and I have already divided our marital property, and we are both satisfied with the division.
 - All of our property is listed on our *Settlement Agreement*.
- (b) The Plaintiff and I have not obtained any property during our marriage.
- (c) The Plaintiff and I have obtained the following property during our marriage, and I am asking for a fair division of this property:
 - All of our property is listed on a separate sheet attached to this *Complaint*.
 - All of our property is listed below:

Type	Description
<input type="checkbox"/> House (address):	_____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Real Estate (address):	_____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Home (year, model):	_____

Pension(s): Mine worth: _____ Defendant's worth: _____

Motor Vehicles *Year* *Make* *Model*

Bank Accounts *Name of Institution, type of account*

Other property

35. **Joint or Marital Debts:** *[Check only one of the following, either (a), (b), or (c). Do not include complete account numbers.]*

- (a) The Plaintiff and I do not have any outstanding joint or marital debts.
- (b) The Plaintiff and I have the following outstanding joint or marital debts, and responsibility for paying them should be as listed below:

Creditor	Balance	Who Should Pay

- Listed on separate paper attached to this *Complaint*
- Listed in the signed *Settlement Agreement*

36. **Restraining Order Where Violence Has Occurred:**

[Read instructions carefully and check only if applicable.]

There is a history of physical violence by the Plaintiff toward me, and I am afraid that the Plaintiff will engage in further acts of violence or harassment toward me unless the Court enters a temporary and permanent restraining order.

37. **Restore Former or Maiden Name:** *[Check only if applicable.]*

I am asking the Court to restore my former or maiden name, which is:

38. **Grounds for Divorce:** *[Check the ones that you can prove at trial.]*

My grounds for divorce from the Plaintiff are:

(a) **Our marriage is irretrievably broken.** The Plaintiff and I can no longer live together and there is no hope that we will get back together.

(b) **Cruel treatment** - The Plaintiff committed the following acts of cruel treatment toward me: ____

(c) **Adultery** - The Plaintiff has had sexual intercourse with someone else during our marriage.

(d) **Desertion** - The Plaintiff has intentionally and continually deserted me for at least a year.

(e) **Other grounds** from list in OCGA § 19-5-3, as explained here:

FOR THESE REASONS, I REQUEST THE FOLLOWING RELIEF:

[Check **all** that apply.]

- (a) That I be granted a total divorce from the Plaintiff;
- (b) That the *Settlement Agreement* signed by the parties be incorporated into the *Final Judgment and Decree of Divorce*.
- (c) That the Plaintiff be ordered to pay me alimony for my support;
- (d) That our marital property be divided according to Paragraph 20;
- (e) That our joint or marital debts be divided according to Paragraph 21;
- (f) That the Plaintiff be temporarily and permanently restrained from harassing me or committing any acts of violence toward me;
- (g) That my former or maiden name be restored according to Paragraph 23;
- (h) That a Rule Nisi be scheduled by the Court, to decide on the relief I have requested;
- (i) That the Court order the parties to participate in mediation, to try to resolve this matter; and
- (j) That the Court order any and all other relief that the Court finds appropriate.

Dated: _____

Defendant *Pro se* [signature]

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State ZIP

Phone: _____

Email: _____

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GWINNETT COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

v. Plaintiff,

Civil Action
File No.: _____

Defendant.

VERIFICATION

The Defendant personally appeared before the undersigned officer duly authorized to administer oaths, and did swear or affirm that he/she read the foregoing *Answer and Counterclaim* and that the information contained therein is true and correct.

Signature, Defendant *Pro se*

SWORN AND AFFIRMED before me this
____ day of _____ 20____.

NOTARY PUBLIC

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GWINNETT COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

_____ <p style="text-align: center;">Plaintiff,</p> v. <p style="text-align: center;">Defendant.</p> _____	Civil Action File No.: _____
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This certifies that I sent copies of the foregoing *Answer and Counterclaim* to the opposing party by first class mail certified mail, return receipt requested. They were addressed to the opposing party or their attorney as follows:

Opposing Party/Attorney's Name

Address

Address Line 2

City, State, ZIP

Dated: _____

_____ Defendant *Pro se* [signature]

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ City, State ZIP

Phone: _____

Email: _____