

Guide- 4 steps to divorce

The divorce process is a straightforward paper process to follow and should be very possible without instructing a solicitor, if you follow our video series and use the forms on this webpage.

Watch our video- [How to do your own divorce](#)

STEP 1

You can only get divorced if you have been married for at least 1 year.

The Petitioner completes the [divorce petition](#) in which they have to state the reason for the divorce.

To help you complete this, watch our videos- [Before you get started AND the 5 divorce reasons](#)

This Petition is sent to the court with the marriage certificate and application fee of £550 (subject to change).

STEP 2

The divorce petition is sent by the court to the other spouse (Respondent). They will need to acknowledge receipt and return a form to the court within 7 days of receiving it. This form is then sent to Petitioner.

Among other things, they will need to answer a question about the divorce costs.

Watch our videos- [How to complete the Acknowledgement form. And divorce costs](#)

STEP 3

The Petitioner sends their [application for Decree Nisi](#) to the court with a [statement in support](#) depending on the chosen reason for divorce and the Judge decides whether to grant a Decree Nisi.

The Judge will check that the forms have been correctly completed, the Family Proceedings Rules have been complied with. If not, the court will send out directions for what needs to be done.

If everything has been done correctly, the Petitioner and Respondent will both receive notification of the date of Decree Nisi, from the court. This is the interim divorce decree.

STEP 4

6 weeks and 1 day after Decree Nisi, the Petitioner can [apply for Decree Absolute](#). When this is granted you and your spouse will be divorced.

This document officially dissolves the marriage.

If Decree Absolute is not applied within 12 months from the date of Decree Nisi there will be an additional procedure to go through.

Watch our video- [Applying for DN and DA](#)