

DISTRICT COURT TRUSTEE
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CENTER, 111 E. 11TH, Unit 101
LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044-2966

**INFORMATION FOR PRO SE LITIGANTS
IN DOMESTIC CASES**

The Office of the District Court Trustee is authorized to handle certain post-divorce matters involving child support and/or spousal support. If you are considering filing for divorce and handling the matter yourself, pro se legal divorce forms specific to Kansas law can be found on the website of the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA). Before proceeding directly to the legal forms, you may want to visit OJA's webpage regarding self representation found at <http://www.kscourts.org/Programs/Self-Help/default.asp>.

There is another option to representing one's self or hiring an attorney to represent you on all issues. You can hire an attorney to handle only a specific issue of your case while you are responsible for other issues. This is called *Limited Scope Representation*. A limited scope attorney can solely prepare pleadings for you or review the pleadings you have prepared such as a child support worksheet or parenting plan. The extent of the attorney's involvement is determined by you and the limited scope attorney. More information on limited scope representation can be found at http://douglas-county.com/district_court/dc_limitedscope.aspx. A link at the bottom of this webpage takes you to the list of local attorneys approved for limited scope representation.

Pro se divorce forms for cases with minor children or without minor children can be found at <http://www.kansasjudicialcouncil.org/DivorceForms.shtml>. Please note all parties must file a *Domestic Relations Affidavit* with the court.

If you have minor children, you must provide a *Child Support Worksheet* to the court. Kansas Legal Services has an interactive website to help you complete a worksheet. While the interactive website is designed for parties whose combined annual income is less than \$40,000, those parties with greater combined income may use the website as a learning tool. These individuals will need to refer to the income charts found in Appendix II of the Kansas Child Support Guidelines and insert the appropriate monthly support in the worksheet form found in Appendix I of the Guidelines.

The link to the interactive website is

https://lawhelpinteractive.org/login_form?template_id=template.2010-03-17.7641827274.

The link to the Kansas Child Support Guidelines is

<http://www.kscourts.org/Rules-procedures-forms/Child-support-guidelines/2012-guidelines.asp>

Along with a child support worksheet, you will need to file a *Parenting Plan*. The Parenting Plan form can be found at

http://www.kansasjudicialcouncil.org/Forms/DivorceForms_withchildren.shtml.

The *Douglas County Domestic Mediation Project* can assist parties in mediating parenting plans, property division and/or child support issues. There are currently five domestic mediators, two of which are attorneys, and cases are assigned on a rotating basis by Diane Oakes, Project Coordinator. Each parent meets with the mediator for one hour to define the issue(s) and then both parents together meet with the mediator for a two hour session to address the issue(s). Mediation sessions can take place in the courthouse or in the office of a mediator. Parties pay according to a sliding scale based upon their income as demonstrated by a recent pay stub or the last child support worksheet filed with the court. More information can be obtained by contacting the Office of the District Court Trustee (785-832-5315) or Diane Oakes (785-221-6672, doakes120@yahoo.com).