

Procedures and Grounds for Divorce ##### Steps in Filing for Divorce 1. **Filing a Petition**: One spouse (the petitioner) files a legal document called a petition or complaint for divorce with the court. **Serving the Petition**: The petition must be formally delivered to the other spouse (the respondent), notifying them of the divorce action. **Response**: The respondent has a specified period to respond to the petition, either agreeing or contesting the terms. **Negotiation and Settlement**: The spouses, often through their attorneys, negotiate terms of the divorce. This document outlines the grounds for divorce and any requests for child custody, support, alimony, and division of property. **Temporary Orders**: Either spouse can request temporary orders for issues like child custody, support, or exclusive use of the marital home during the divorce process. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8