

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SELF REPRESENTATION IN A FAMILY LAW MATTER.

The following is the procedure to be used by parties who are representing themselves in filing a family law matter in the County Court at Law of Polk County, Texas. It is not a substitute for representation by an attorney. Neither the District Clerk's office nor the Court is allowed to give legal advice. Although you have a right to represent yourself, it is always best to consult with a lawyer, particularly if the case is contested.

All documents, and the instructions on using them, may be found at www.texaslawhelp.org.

All paperwork, with the exception of the final decree and the vital statistics form, are to be filed with the District Clerk located on the 2nd floor of the Polk County Judicial Center, 101 West Mill, Livingston, Texas. A completed proposed decree and the vital statistics form are to be delivered to the office of the County Court at Law, located at Suite 157 of the Polk County Judicial Center.

The Court will review the paperwork and will contact you concerning the status of your case. A divorce will not be granted until a complete and correct decree is submitted.

There may be issues in some cases that the Court feels are too complicated to be successfully resolved without a lawyer's advice. If that is the case, you will be contacted by Court personnel.

Also, if an attorney makes an official appearance for any party, the case will no longer be treated as a self representation case and the normal procedure for lawyers will be followed.