

**§901. Action for divorce; procedures**

**1. Filing of complaint; grounds.** A person seeking a divorce may file a complaint for divorce in the District Court if:

- A. The plaintiff has resided in good faith in this State for 6 months prior to the commencement of the action; [PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]
- B. The plaintiff is a resident of this State and the parties were married in this State; [PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]
- C. The plaintiff is a resident of this State and the parties resided in this State when the cause of divorce accrued; or [PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]
- D. The defendant is a resident of this State. [PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]

The complaint must state one or more grounds listed in section 902, subsection 1. [PL 1999, c. 731, Pt. ZZZ, §29 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 731, Pt. ZZZ, §42 (AFF).]

**2. Guardian ad litem.** If the alleged cause is that one of the parties is an incapacitated person, as provided in section 902, subsection 1, paragraph J, the court shall appoint a guardian ad litem to represent the interests of the incapacitated person. [PL 2005, c. 594, §1 (AMD).]

**3. Exclusion of public.** In a divorce action, at the request of either party, personally or through that party's attorney, unless the other party who has entered an appearance objects personally or through that other party's attorney, the court shall exclude the public from the court proceedings.

If the court orders that the public is to be excluded, only the parties, their attorneys, court officers and witnesses may be present. [PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]

**4. Corroborating witness not required.** When the merits of a divorce action are not contested, whether or not an answer has been filed, there is no requirement that the testimony of the complaining party be corroborated by witnesses. [PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]

**5. Fraud.** The court may not grant a divorce when the parties seek to procure a divorce for fraudulent purposes. [PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 (NEW); PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]

**6. Attorney's fees and costs.** Attorney's fees awarded in the nature of support may be made payable immediately or in installments. [PL 2005, c. 323, §4 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1995, c. 694, §B2 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 694, §E2 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 731, §ZZZ29 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 731, §ZZZ42 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 323, §4 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 594, §1 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature and is current through October 15, 2024. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.