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are the necessary forms for filing a joint simplified petition for dissolution of marriage. This type of dissolution procedure is not available to everyone ó there are limitations on, among other items, the length of the marriage, the amount of property owned and income of the parties. You should read this handout carefully to see if this procedure is available to you. This handout also includes general information on dissolutions of marriages and instructions for completing the forms.

Instructions for Completing the Forms

There are three forms which must be completed for obtaining a joint simplified dissolution of marriage. All of these forms have been drafted to be self-explanatory and as easy to complete as possible.

Forms: ***Joint Affidavit Regarding Separation of the Parties, Division of Property and Waiver of Bifurcated Hearing**

 * **Joint Petition for Simplified Dissolution of Marriage**

 * **Judgment for Dissolution of Marriage**

With all three forms, you should either type the necessary information or neatly print the information in ink. Fill out all forms completely. Your Circuit Clerk will insert the number (No.) on the Affidavit, Petition and Judgment. Even though this is a ðJointö petition, one of the parties must be designated as a ðPlaintiffö and the other must be designated as a ðDefendantö. Traditionally, the party seeking the dissolution is the plaintiff.

The ðJoint Petition for Simplified Dissolution of Marriageö and the ðJoint Affidavit Regarding Separation of the Parties, Division of Property and Waiver of Bifurcated Hearingö must be signed in front of a Notary Public. You should file a copy of your written agreement dividing marital assets, debts and liabilities at the time you file the Petition, if the value of your property is in excess of \$100 or if there are any debts to be assigned.

The ðJudgment of Dissolution of Marriageö need not be signed in front of a Notary, but should be completed and signed by both parties below the words: ðApproved as to Form and Contentö before your hearing. The Judge will complete the ðEnteredö line and sign the judgment if the dissolution is granted.

If the wife wishes to return to her maiden or former name, you should complete paragraphs 11 and C of the PETITION and paragraph 11 and F of the JUDGMENT.

In addition to these above forms, the Circuit Clerk will give you a Certificate of Dissolution of Marriage which you must complete.

There is a \$_____ filing fee due at the time of filing.

General Information Concerning Dissolutions of Marriages

A dissolution of marriage (commonly referred to as a divorce) is a serious legal step which should not be taken without considerable thought. If you are considering such a proceeding, you should note the following:

- If it is in the best interest of each of the parties to consult attorneys regarding the dissolution of their marriage, the services of attorneys may be obtained.
- You should not rely exclusively on this handout. This handout is intended only as a guide for self-representation.
- Marriage counseling services are available to you in your community. Your Circuit Clerk can provide you with a list of the services available
- If you use this joint simplified proceeding you will lose any right you may have to maintenance (commonly known as alimony). Once you lose the right to maintenance in a legal proceeding, you can never again obtain maintenance from your former spouse.