

...helping you  
move forward

Please note: - You cannot petition for divorce within the first year of a marriage.  
There is only one ground for divorce - that the marriage has irretrievably broken down.

## STEP 1

A Divorce Petition is prepared based on one of the following five facts:

1. Adultery
2. Unreasonable Behaviour
3. Two Years Desertion
4. Two Years Separation with Consent
5. Five Years Separation

The Petition is sent to the Court with:  
Original or certified copy of Marriage Certificate  
Certificate with regard to Reconciliation  
Statement of Arrangements for Children  
Court fee of £300

## STEP 2

The Court issues the Petition. The Petition, Statement of Arrangements for Children, and Acknowledgement of Service are sent to the Respondent. The Respondent should complete and return the Acknowledgement of Service to the Court within 7 days of receipt of divorce papers, a copy will then be sent to the Petitioner.

## STEP 3

The Petitioner swears an Affidavit in support of their Petition. The Petitioner's Affidavit is sent to the Court together with a Request for Directions for Trial.

## STEP 4

If the Judge is satisfied that the Petitioner has proved their petition and is entitled to a Decree, they will set a date for Pronouncement of Decree Nisi.

## STEP 5

Decree Nisi is pronounced.

## STEP 6

The Petitioner can apply for Decree Absolute 6 weeks and 1 day after Decree Nisi is pronounced.  
Standard application form and Court fee of £40.

If no application is made, the Respondent may apply for Decree Absolute three months thereafter.

## STEP 7

### DECREE ABSOLUTE IS PRONOUNCED

The marriage is legally dissolved.