

LSPR 94.04 FINALIZING FAMILY LAW ACTIONS

(a) Uncontested Resolutions.

(1) *Calendar*. Any uncontested family law action may be brought on for final hearing by noting it for the calendar for final orders with or without children, as appropriate.

(2) *Note for Final Orders Calendar*. A notice of hearing for the calendar for final orders must be filed with the clerk no later than 6 court days before the hearing on the calendar for final dissolutions.

(3) *Self-Represented Parties*. Self-represented parties are encouraged to note a dissolution for final hearing and to provide proposed final papers to the clerk at least 30 days before the hearing. Matters shall be placed on this calendar only if the file shows the following:

(A) The Respondent has joined in the petition for dissolution of marriage; or

(B) The Respondent has agreed in writing to entry of the proposed final papers;
or

(C) An order of default has been entered or is appropriate and available for entry at the time of the hearing.

(b) Final Testimony. In cases in which neither party is represented by an attorney, brief testimony shall be required before entry of a Decree of Dissolution of Marriage, a Decree of Dissolution of Registered Domestic Partnership, a Decree of Legal Separation, a Declaration Concerning Validity of Marriage, a Declaration Concerning Validity of Registered Domestic Partnership, a Judgment and Order Establishing Residential Schedule and Child Support, a Minor Guardianship Decree or a Judgment and Order Determining Parentage. The testimony shall be scheduled on the following calendars:

(1) *Dissolution of Marriage, Dissolution of Registered Domestic Partnership Legal Separation, Declaration Concerning Validity of Marriage, Declaration Concerning Validity of Registered Domestic Partnership, or Judgment and Order Establishing Residential Schedule and Child Support*: Final Orders Calendar, With Children or Without Children.

(2) *Parentage*: State Parentage/Support Calendar Final Orders With Children calendar.

(3) *Minor Guardianships*: Minor Guardianship Calendar.

Testimony may also be presented at a settlement conference or trial.

(c) Entry of Final Order.

(1) *Time of Presenting Documents for Signature.* At the time of hearing of an uncontested dissolution case, the necessary documents to be signed must be presented to the court for signature. If signed, they shall be filed with the clerk. For good cause, the court may extend the time for presentation.

(2) *Review of Final Pleadings.* All final decrees, final orders and any accompanying Findings of Fact/Conclusions of Law, Parenting Plans, Child Support Orders and Worksheets for family law cases shall be reviewed for form and completeness by a legal professional before presentation to a judicial officer. "Legal professional" means an attorney, Limited License Legal Technician, courthouse facilitator, or a legal aid volunteer. Motions for fee waivers may be presented ex parte without first being reviewed by a legal professional. The court may also waive the requirement of review by a legal professional and the courthouse facilitator fee through a court order. The Guardian ad Litem's approval of the parenting plan shall meet the review requirement for the parenting plan.

(3) *Notice to State of Washington.* No Final Orders or accompanying Child Support Orders and Worksheets shall be entered in any family law case, when a party receives support for any dependent child at that time and is a beneficiary of public assistance, unless and until notice has been given to the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Office of Support Enforcement, or the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Family Support Division.

(4) *Documents.* In matters involving minor children, a Decree of Dissolution shall not be entered unless Child Support Worksheets and a proposed or agreed Parenting Plan have been filed by each party and the LSPR 94.06 requirements have been satisfied.

(5) *Testimony Not Required.* The court may enter agreed or default final orders without a final hearing or oral testimony when (a) the orders have been reviewed by a legal professional, (b) the findings of fact are verified by the Petitioner or the Respondent, as provided in this rule, and (c) the matter is the following type of case:

- (A) dissolution;
- (B) legal separation;
- (C) invalidity of marriage;
- (D) parenting plan modification;
- (E) child support modification;
- (F) minor guardianship;

(G) paternity, or

(H) residential schedule, parenting plan, or child support for unmarried parents with a paternity acknowledgment.

Verification shall be as follows:

I am the Petitioner or Respondent in this case and I have read the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law, parenting plan, support order, and related documents, if included herein, and they are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. If this is a default, I am not seeking any relief beyond that specifically requested in the petition. The support requested, if any, is in compliance with the Washington State Child Support Schedule.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed this ____ day of _____, 20__ at _____, Washington.

Petitioner/Respondent

(6) *Mailing of Final Documents.* Following the entry of final documents by default in a family law matter, the moving party or attorney for the moving party shall immediately deliver or mail to the other party, at his or her last known address, a conformed copy of all final pleadings.

[Amended effective February 9, 1999; September 1, 2006; September 1, 2008; September 1, 2014; September 1, 2016; September 1, 2019; September 1, 2022; September 1, 2023.]