

1	A significant increase in the number of divorces has	11
2	affected how divorces are granted. In some states, laws	22
3	have been adopted in which no fault for the divorce is	33
4	filed by either party. The court may recognize a mutual	44
5	agreement by both parties to end the marriage because of	55
6	irreconcilable differences.	61
7	The party who asks for the divorce must meet certain	72
8	residency requirements in the state in which he or she is	84
9	seeking relief. In addition, the party must have statutory	96
10	grounds for the action. The legal grounds for divorce vary	108
11	according to state laws. The statutory grounds may include	120
12	adultery, cruel and inhuman treatment, habitual alcohol or	132
13	drug use, insanity, abandonment, or imprisonment.	142
14	Depending on the state law, the actual procedure for	153
15	divorce or dissolution of a marriage may vary. The process	165
16	for civil litigation is followed, beginning with serving a	177
17	summons and complaint on the defendant. The law firm often	189
18	hires a process server to personally serve the summons on	201
19	the defendant. A memorandum of a separation agreement or a	213
20	complaint is filed with the clerk of the court. An index	224
21	number that is used on all subsequent papers in the case	235
22	is assigned by court clerk.	241
23	In an uncontested divorce, the defendant will fail to	252
24	answer the complaint. The attorney for the plaintiff may	263
25	apply for a judgment by default. In a contested divorce,	274
26	civil actions continue with depositions, motions, written	286
27	interrogatories, stipulations between attorneys, and a	297
28	trial in court.	300

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