

Superior Court of Washington, County of _____

In re the marriage / domestic partnership of:

Petitioner (*person who started this case*):

And Respondent (*other spouse / partner*):

No. _____

Summons:
Notice about a Marriage
or Domestic Partnership
(SM)

Summons:

Notice about a Marriage or Domestic Partnership

To the Respondent: Your spouse/domestic partner (the Petitioner) started a case asking the court (*check one*):

- To end your marriage.
- To end your domestic partnership.
- For a legal separation.
- To decide if your marriage is valid.
- To decide if your domestic partnership is valid.

You must respond in writing for the court to consider your side.

Deadline! Your *Response* must be served on the Petitioner within **20 days** of the date you were served this *Summons* (60 days if you were served outside of Washington State). If the case has been filed, you must also file your *Response* by the same deadline. If you do not file and serve your *Response* or a *Notice of Appearance* by the deadline:

- No one has to notify you about other hearings in this case, and
- The court may approve the Petitioner's requests without hearing your side (called a *default judgment*).

Follow these steps:

- 1. Read** the *Petition* and any other documents you receive with this *Summons*. These documents explain what the Petitioner is asking for.
- 2. Fill out** the *Response* on one of these forms:
 - *Response to Petition about a Marriage* (FL Divorce 211) if you are married, or
 - *Response to Petition about a Registered Domestic Partnership* (FL Divorce 212) if you are a domestic partner.

You can get the *Response* and other forms at:

- The Washington State Courts' website: www.courts.wa.gov/forms
- The Administrative Office of the Courts – call: (360) 705-5328
- Washington LawHelp: www.washingtonlawhelp.org, or
- The Superior Court Clerk's office or county law library (for a fee).

3. Serve (give) a copy of your *Response* to the Petitioner at the address below. You may use certified mail with return receipt requested. For more information on how to serve, read Superior Court Civil Rule 5.

4. File your original *Response* with the court clerk at this address:

Superior Court Clerk, _____ County

address *city* *state* *zip*

If there is no "Case No." listed on page 1, this case may not have been filed and you will not be able to file a *Response*. Contact the Superior Court Clerk or check www.courts.wa.gov to find out.

If the case was **not** filed, you must still serve your *Response*, and you may demand that the Petitioner file this case with the court. Your demand must be in writing and must be served on the Petitioner or his/her lawyer (whoever signed this *Summons*). If the Petitioner does not file papers for this case within 14 days of being served with your demand, this service on you of the *Summons* and *Petition* will not be valid. If the Petitioner does file, then you must file your original *Response* with the court clerk at the address above.

5. Lawyer not required: It's a good idea to talk to a lawyer, but you may file and serve your *Response* without one.

Petitioner or his/her lawyer fills out below:



Signature of Petitioner or lawyer

Date

Print name of Petitioner or lawyer and WSBA No.

Petitioner agrees to accept legal papers for this case at (*check one*):

Petitioner's lawyer's address:

lawyer's address *city* *state* *zip*

Email (*if applicable*): _____

the following address (*this does not have to be your home address*):

address *city* *state* *zip*

(Optional) email: _____

(If this address changes before the case ends, you must notify all parties and the court clerk in writing. You may use the Notice of Address Change form (FL All Family 120). You must also update your Confidential Information Form (FL All Family 001) if this case involves parentage or child support.)

This Summons is issued according to Rule 4.1 of the Superior Court Civil Rules of the State of Washington.