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How to Get Divorce Records

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Instructions

Difficulty: Easy

1. Go to the clerk of the court where the divorce case was held.
2. Advise the staff person on duty in the clerk's office that you want to obtain divorce records. Typically, a court clerk requires you to complete a records request form.
3. Complete the records request form. You provide basic information about the case, particularly the names of the parties.
4. Give the completed form to a staff member. Keep in mind that the records in cases more than a couple of years old may take longer to obtain. The clerk's staff may not be able to provide those records to you for a week or perhaps even a bit longer, according to "The Complete Divorce Handbook: A Practical Guide," by Brette McWhorter Sember.
5. Pay the fee associated with duplicating records requested when they are ready for you to retrieve from the court clerk's office.

Tips & Warnings

- In many jurisdictions you can request divorce records over the phone or on the Internet. These methods require you to pay for the documents using a credit or debit card.

References

- "Nolo's Essential Guide to Divorce"; Emily Doskow; 2008
- "The Complete Divorce Handbook: A Practical Guide"; Brette McWhorter Sember; 2009

Resources

- American Bar Association: Section of Family Law
- Cornell University Law School: Divorce Overview
- ABA Family Law Quarterly: Family Law in the 50 States

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