COMPLAINT FOR SEPARATE MAINTENANCE WITH NO MINOR CHILDREN (Legal Separation)

D-19

Resource Center 1 South Sierra St., Third Floor Reno, NV 89501 775-325-6731 www.washoecourts.com

COMPLAINT FOR SEPARATE MAINTENANCE WITH NO MINOR CHILDREN (LEGAL SEPARATION)

PACKET D-19

Use this complaint for separate maintenance packet only if <u>all</u> of the following requirements have been met:

You are currently married.

] You want to separate your assets from your spouse, but remain married.

You and your spouse have no minor children together, either natural-born or adopted.

You or your spouse has lived in Nevada for more than six weeks.

The penalty for willfully making a false statement under penalty of perjury is a minimum of 1 year, and a maximum of 4 years in prison, in addition to a fine of not more than \$5,000.00. N.R.S. §199.145.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORMS

Carefully read all instructions before starting to fill out any of the forms.

Use black or blue ink only. Neatly print the information requested.

Do not use correction fluid/tape on the forms.

This packet contains the following forms:

- 1. EFile User Agreement (Standard)
- 2. Family Court Information Sheet
- 3. Complaint for Separate Maintenance
- 4. General Financial Disclosure
- 5. Declaration of Resident Witness
- 6. Summons
- 7. Declaration of Personal Service
- 8. Definitions of Terms Used in this Packet

INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 1

eFlex Account and eFile User Agreement:

To file your documents, you will need to sign up for an eFlex account and have a valid email address. There is no fee to sign up for a standard eFlex account. If you already have an eFlex account for a different case, you do not need to create another account and can skip this step.

To sign up:

 Carefully read and complete the eFile User Agreement (Standard) by filling in as much information as possible, signing, and dating page two;
Return the eFile User Agreement (Standard) to the Second Judicial District Court, or email it to <u>eflexsupport@washoecourts.us</u>; and
Request an account at <u>https://wceflex.washoecourts.com/</u>.



If you need further assistance signing up for an account, please call the Resource Center at 775-325-6731.

INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 2



Complete the Family Court Information Sheet as Shown:

INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 3

Complete the Complaint Separate Maintenance as Shown:



INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 4

Complete the General Financial Disclosure as Shown:



INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 5

Complete the Declaration of Resident Witness as Shown:

Someone other than the people legally separating must complete this declaration.

Who can fill out this form? Someone who is:

- 18 years of age or older;
- A resident of the State of Nevada; and
- Who knows that you or your spouse have been physically present in Nevada for at least 6 weeks before filing for separate maintenance.



INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 6

Electronically Filing the Documents

You will need to upload the original documents to eFlex. EFlex is available online at <u>https://wceflex.washoecourts.com/</u>, in the Law Library and the Resource Center.

If you have not done so, you will need to sign up for an eFlex account and turn in the EFile User Agreement (*see INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 1*), to the Second Judicial District Court, or email to <u>eflexsupport@washoecourts.us</u>.

Sign into your eFlex account using the username and password you created and electronically file the:

- Family Court Information Sheet;
- Complaint for Separate Maintenance and any exhibits;
- General Financial Disclosure; and
- Declaration of Resident Witness.

Make sure to keep the original documents you file for your personal records. Filestamped copies of your documents are available through your eFlex account.

Scanners are available at the Law Library and the Resource Center.

There may be a filing fee charged when documents are filed. Fee information is available at the Resource Center and online at: <u>www.washoecourts.com</u>.

FILING FEE WAIVERS

If you cannot afford the filing fee, you may apply to have your filing fee waived. To apply, youmust fill out and file the application found in the **Application for Waiver of Fees and Costs packet**, which may be obtained at the following locations:

- Resource Center, 1 South Sierra Street, Reno, NV, Third Floor
- Law Library, 75 Court Street, Reno, NV, First Floor
- Online at: <u>www.washoecourts.com</u> (select the "Forms & Packets" tab on the top right hand side of the home screen)

INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 7

Complete the Summons as Shown:



INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 8

Getting the Summons Issued

You will need to bring the Summons to the Filing Office or mail a copy of the Summons to the Filing Office using the following address:

75 Court Street Reno, Nevada 89501 Attention Mail Desk

Once received, a filing clerk will issue the Summons by dating and signing the Summons and placing an embossed seal on the bottom right corner.

If you bring in the Summons in person, the Summons will be immediately returned to you.

If you mail in the Summons, you will receive the issued Summons back in the mail.

You will need to serve your spouse with a copy of the Summons.

Copy machines are available at the Law Library located on the first floor of the courthouse at 75 Court Street, Reno, NV. There is a per page charge to use the copy machine. Cash only.

INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 9

Setting a Case Management Conference

You must set a case management conference. The court will not automatically set one for you. To set up your case management conference, you will need to go to the Resource Center.

INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 10

Serving the Documents

Your spouse **must be personally served** within 120 days after the complaint is filed or your case may be dismissed. You must have your spouse personally served with:

- Summons;
- Complaint and any Exhibits;
- General Financial Disclosure;
- Family Court Information Sheet;
- Notice of Case Management Conference (you get this form once you set the case for case management); and
- Additional documents you have filed with the court other than an application for waiver of fees and costs (if any) or ex parte motion(s) (if any).

The original summons must be electronically filed with the court after service is completed.

Personal Service

Personal Service is completed by a person other than yourself by:

- handing a copy of the summons and complaint along with all other documents you have filed with the court to your spouse; or
- leaving a copy at your spouse's home with a person of suitable age and discretion who lives there; or
- delivering a copy to an agent authorized to receive service (such as an attorney).

You cannot complete personal service. Service may be completed by:

- the Civil Division of the Sheriff's Office in the County in which your spouse resides or works; or
- a responsible adult over the age of 18 years (such as a friend or relative); or
- a private process service.

Service by Publication

If you are unable to serve your spouse, or do not know where your spouse is, you may electronically file an **Ex Parte Motion** requesting to serve your spouse by alternative service or by publishing in the newspaper. Contact the Resource Center for further information.

INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 11

Complete the Declaration of Personal Service as Shown:

The person who serves your spouse must complete this declaration (*see* Instructions: Step 10). You cannot serve your spouse.

The person who completes service must fill out the declaration and sign it. It is your responsibility to file the original summons and declaration of service with the court after service is completed.



INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 12

Filing the Summons and Declaration of Service

After service is completed, **you must electronically file the original summons and declaration of service with the court.** Without proof that your spouse was served, the court cannot grant a decree of divorce.

Your spouse has 21 days after the date of service in which to electronically file an answer to the complaint. If your spouse does not file an answer, please contact the Resource Center for further information regarding a **Default Packet**.

Legal Assistance Information

The information in this packet is provided as a courtesy only. This packet is not a substitute for the advice of an attorney. Counsel is always recommended for legal matters.

If you do not have an attorney, you are encouraged to seek the advice of a licensed attorney or contact the Resource Center or the Law Library. **The Resource Center and the Law Library staff cannot give legal advice** but can give information regarding court procedures.

You may wish to speak with a lawyer at no cost through the Law Library's Lawyer in the Library program. The Lawyer in the Library program is held via Zoom; you must register ahead of time to participate. No walk-ins accepted as space is limited.

LAWYER IN THE LIBRARY

Sign up on our website: <u>https://www.washoecourts.com/LawLibrary/LawyerInLibrary</u> For questions, contact the Law Library at 775-328-3250

To seek assistance from other free or reduced-cost legal resources in the area, please contact:

NEVADA LEGAL SERVICES

449 S. Virginia St. Reno, NV 89501 775-284-3491 – leave a message, if necessary https://nevadalegalservices.org

NORTHERN NEVADA LEGAL AID

1 S. Sierra St., 1st Floor Reno, NV 89501 775-321-2062 – leave a message, if necessary <u>https://nnlegalaid.org</u>

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LEGAL ASSISTANCE INFO – Page 1

Some definitions of terms used in the complaint for separate maintenance

The following definitions and explanations are only to be used as general guidance.

The definitions provided do not explain the entire legal meaning or importance of the terms. A private attorney, licensed to practice in the State of Nevada, or a representative of one of the local legal resource agencies can provide you with a fullexplanation of the terms.

Alimony: Money that a spouse, by court order, pays to the other person for support while they are separated or after they are divorced.

Community

Debts: Usually, any amount owed by either spouse, or both of them, that was contracted or came due during the marriage. It often does not matter if the debt is in one or both names.

Community

- Property: Usually anything acquired by either spouse, or both of them, during marriage. It often does not matter if the property is owned in one or both names.
- Residency: Nevada law requires that a separate maintenance case be granted only if a spouse, or both of them, was physically present in the State of Nevada for at least six weeks immediately before the Joint Petition for Separate Maintenance is filed with the court.

Resident

Witness: Any adult resident of the State of Nevada, other than either spouse, whoknows and can swear that either spouse was physically present in the State of Nevada for at least six weeks immediately before the Joint Petition for Separate Maintenance is filed with the court.

Request for

Submission: No paper filed with the court is seen by the judge until a request for submission is filed with the court.