

Online Divorce Readiness Worksheet

Fillable Decision Worksheet — ClearLegalTips.com (2026)

Online divorce services work best for a genuinely uncontested case where both spouses agree. Use this worksheet to decide whether an online service fits your situation, to compare options before you pay, and to budget for the costs that sit outside the service fee. Fill in the blanks and check the boxes that apply to you.

A. Is Online Divorce Right for You?

Check every statement that is true for your situation.

- ☐ Our divorce is uncontested — we agree on property, custody, and support
- ☐ We meet our state's residency requirement to file
- ☐ No complex assets (business valuations, significant retirement accounts, multi-state property, hidden assets)
- ☐ We can communicate well enough to finalize the paperwork
- ☐ I am comfortable filing the signed papers at the courthouse myself
- ☐ There are no domestic violence or safety concerns in our situation

Scoring: If you checked all six, an online service is likely a good fit. If you left any unchecked — especially the first, third, or sixth — a contested/complex or safety-sensitive case usually needs a mediator or an attorney, not a document service.

B. Compare Services

Get quotes from two services and record the details side by side before paying. An online service prepares your documents; it does not file them for you or give legal advice.

Factor	Service A	Service B
Service name		
Flat price (typical range \$150–\$500)		
State-specific forms for my state (Yes/No)		
Documents included (petition, settlement, parenting plan, etc.)		
Filing service included? (usually No — instructions only)		
Turnaround time (often 1–3 business days)		
Customer support (phone / email; procedural only)		
Court-acceptance guarantee?		
Refund policy		

C. Budget the Full Cost (Not Just the Service Fee)

The service fee is flat for document preparation, but real-world costs sit outside it. Fill in your expected amounts so there are no surprises.

Online service fee (flat, typically \$150–\$500): _____

Court filing fee — paid directly to the court (typically \$100–\$450 by state/county): _____

Service of process, if spouse won't sign a waiver (process server/sheriff, ~\$50–\$150): _____

Notary and certified copies of the final decree (a few dollars per copy): _____

Estimated total out-of-pocket (service fee + court costs): _____

Tip: Budget roughly another \$100–\$500 on top of any service fee, mostly for the court. If you cannot afford the filing fee, most states let you apply for a fee waiver; you file that form yourself.

D. Set a Realistic Timeline

Separate the two timelines people often confuse. Documents arrive fast; the divorce is final only after your state's mandatory waiting period runs its course. No service can shorten a statutory waiting period.

Date I expect completed documents (often 1–3 business days after the questionnaire): _____

My state's mandatory waiting period (a few weeks to six months — e.g. CA six months, TX 60 days, FL under a month): _____

Earliest realistic finalization date: _____

E. Your Decision

Weigh the three routes for your case: DIY (free, but you find and complete the forms yourself), a paid online service (guided middle ground), or an attorney (full representation, typically \$1,500–\$5,000).

Chosen path (DIY / online service / attorney): _____

Chosen service name (if applicable): _____

Reason for this choice: _____

Next action and target date: _____

Notes

: _____
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:
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

How to use: Work through Sections A–E in order. Section A tells you whether an online service is even the right tool; if it isn't, stop and consult an attorney or mediator. Sections B–D help you compare services and budget the true cost and timeline before you pay. Section E records your final decision. Keep this worksheet with your divorce paperwork. This resource is provided by ClearLegalTips.com for general informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Laws vary by state and change over time. Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.