Stage Two (2) Divorce Forms

4A-200. Domestic relations forms; instructions for stage two (2) forms.

A. **Temporary orders.** After your petition for dissolution of marriage has been filed but before the court issues a final decree, you may request assistance on a temporary basis using Form 4A-202 NMRA. The court may provide such assistance by issuing one of the following temporary orders:

(1) ***Temporary domestic order.*** *See* Subparagraphs (D)(18) and (E)(4) of Form 4A-100 NMRA for an explanation of when to request a temporary domestic order from the court. For the temporary domestic order, *see* Form 4A-201 NMRA;

(2) ***Temporary division of property.*** You may request this relief when you need assistance from the court with access to property such as a home (e.g., a house, apartment) or a vehicle;

(3) ***Temporary division of income and debts.*** You may request this relief when you cannot agree about how bills will be paid, or you are having trouble paying the bills with only your income. This relief will include child support if you and your spouse have minor children together;

(4) ***Temporary custody of minor children.*** You may request this relief when you cannot agree on important decisions about the children, including decisions about medical treatment and where the children will go to school. For more information about child custody, *see* Section 40-4-9.1 NMSA 1978;

(5) ***Temporary order establishing timesharing or visitation schedule.*** You may request this relief when you cannot agree on a schedule of how much time each parent will spend with the child and when the child will be with each parent;

(6) ***Temporary child support and request for wage withholding.*** If you have not already requested a temporary division of property and debts as provided in Paragraph (A)(3) of this rule, you may request this relief when you cannot agree on the amount of money that one party should pay the other party to help support the children. If the court grants a temporary child support order, the child support payment may be taken from the paying party's paycheck pursuant to a wage withholding order. For more information about a wage withholding order, *see* Form 4A-300(D)(2)(b) NMRA. For the wage withholding order, *see* Form 4A-304 NMRA; and

(7) ***Temporary allocation of community resources to permit both parties to hire an attorney.*** You may request this relief when you need money to hire an attorney and there is money or credit available from either or both of the parties.

B. **Motion to modify temporary order.** You may file this motion (Form 4A-203 NMRA) if you have a temporary order and you want to change it. In your motion, you must state specific reasons why the temporary order should be changed.

C. **Motion for referral to mediation (child custody, timesharing, or visitation).** You may file this motion (Form 4A-204 NMRA) when you believe that there is a reasonable likelihood that you will be able to reach an agreement about child custody or visitation with the assistance of a mediator. Requesting a referral for mediation on child custody does not require the issue of child support to be resolved at the same time. To mediate child support, the parties must have exchanged all documentation required by Rule 1-123 NMRA, as provided by Paragraph D of this rule.

D. **Motion for referral to mediation (child support or other financial issues).** You may file this motion (Form 4A-205 NMRA) only if each of the following circumstances has been met:

(1) the parties have exchanged all documentation required by Rule 1-123 NMRA (*see* the appendix to this Rule for more information);

(2) you believe that there is a reasonable likelihood that you can reach a final agreement on some or all of the matters in your divorce other than child custody or visitation, such as child support, division of income and debt, or division of a retirement account. *See* Form 4A-202 NMRA (Motion for temporary order) for other matters that may be mediated; and

(3) the judicial district that you are filing in has a mediation program for this purpose, or the parties have funds available to pay for a private mediator.

E. **Motion to enforce order.** You may file a motion to enforce order (Form 4A-209 NMRA) when you want to ask the court for help because you believe the other party is not following a court order. You should be very specific when completing the motion; tell the court what the court order says and what the other person is doing or not doing that is violating the order. State only serious violations and be as complete as possible. Bring a copy of the order with you to the hearing. If you do not have a copy of the order, you may obtain one from the clerk's office. Standard copying fees may apply.

F. **General instructions for filing motions.**

(1) Either party may file a motion seeking help from the court. When you file a motion, it must be filed with the Court Clerk's Office. You must fill out and bring a Request for Hearing (Form 4A-206 NMRA) to the court to be filed at the same time as your motion. You may be required to bring an original, completed Notice of Hearing (Form 4A-207 NMRA) with self-addressed stamped envelopes for both parties. The court will send each party a Notice of Hearing that will include your assigned hearing date and time in the self-addressed stamped envelopes you provided.

WARNING: Generally, this rule must be followed when filing a motion; however, many courts have special rules when the parties need a hearing. You should inquire at the Court Clerk's Office to determine if special rules apply when you request a hearing.

(2) If the motion relates to money (*see* Subparagraphs (1), (2), (3), (6) and (7) of Paragraph A, above), you must take the steps required by Rule 1-123 NMRA and file a Notice of Compliance with Rule 1-123 NMRA (Form 4A-208 NMRA), with the Court Clerk's Office. For further information on Rule 1-123 NMRA, please refer to the appendix to this rule.

(3) There may be other motions that you want to file. You should follow these general instructions with all motions. Any response to a motion should be served on the other party as set forth in Form 4A-100(J) NMRA.

(4) **WARNING:** All forms include a verification of service which tells the court that you gave a copy of your motion to the other party. Your motion cannot be heard by the court unless you have properly served a copy on the other party.

G. **Hearings.** You will receive a notice of hearing from the court mailed to you in the self-addressed stamped envelope that you or your spouse provided to the court when filing the motion. *See* the appendix to this rule for instructions about how to prepare for the hearing. If someone you need to be your witness does not want to go to the hearing, you will need to request a subpoena from the court before the hearing. If a subpoena is issued by the court, the person will be ordered to appear at the court at the date, time, and place of your hearing. You are responsible for getting the subpoena served on the witness and for filing the return of service with the Clerk of the Court. For further information about subpoenas, *see* Rule 1-045 NMRA.

H. **Hearing officers.** From time to time, the judge may appoint a hearing officer to preside over your hearing. The hearing officer is required to prepare a Hearing Officer Report within thirty (30) days after your hearing, which contains findings of fact and recommendations to the judge on how the court should rule. The court will mail each party a copy of the Hearing Officer Report and a Notice of Filing. If you do not agree with the hearing officer's recommendations, you must complete and file written objections within ten (10) days after service of the recommendations using Form 4A-211 NMRA. You must send a copy of the written objections to the other party. If no written objections are received by the district court, then the recommendations of the hearing officer may be adopted by the court without further notice to you. If the court receives written objections to the recommendations, the court will decide whether to set a hearing or to enter its own order. The court will notify you of the action it has taken. For further information about hearing officers in domestic relations actions, *see* Rule 1-053.2 NMRA.

[Approved by Supreme Court Order No. 13-8300-010, effective for all pleadings and papers filed on or after May 31, 2013, in all cases pending or filed on or after May 31, 2013; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. 14-8300-011, effective for all pleadings and papers filed on or after December 31, 2014, in all cases filed or pending on or after December 31, 2014; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. 17-8300-017, effective for all pleadings and papers filed on or after December 31, 2017.]