

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

Important! Petitioner **must** complete the address boxes below. If Petitioner does not give a service address and the court's address, **this Summons will be invalid.**

Petitioner Petitioner's Lawyer (name):

Petitioner's Address for Service: (This does **not** have to be a home address.)

You may **only** serve Petitioner by email if an email address is provided below or Petitioner otherwise agrees in writing. See *All Civil 006 Agreement re: Service by Email*.

Email (optional) – Petitioner agrees to accept service of legal papers for this case by email at this address: _____

Superior Court of Washington, County of _____

Court's Address for filing:

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

Deadline! Your *Response* must be served on 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 in court, 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. (This is called a *default judgment*.)

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

Follow these steps:

1. **Read** the *Petition* and any other documents you receive with this *Summons*. These documents explain what 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
 - Washington Law Help: 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 Petitioner at the petitioner's address for service listed on page 1.
 4. **File** your original *Response* with the clerk of the court at the court's address for filing listed on page 1.



Signature of Petitioner or lawyer

Date

Print name of Petitioner or lawyer and WSBA No.

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 their 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.

This summons is issued pursuant to RCW 4.28.180 and Superior Court Civil Rule 4.1 of the State of Washington.