INFORMATION FOR FILING A DIVORCE-PRO-SE

THE DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE **DOES NOT** SUPPLY FORMS NECESSARY TO FILE FOR DIVORCE. WE ARE NOT AN ATTORNEY AND ARE LEGALLY PROHIBITED FROM GIVING ANY LEGAL ADVICE.

If you intend to represent yourself **"Pro Se" (without the assistance of an attorney)** you must have the knowledge to prepare and file the necessary pleadings and present your cause to the Court.

You can find a Pro Se Divorce Information including FREE instructions and FREE printable paperwork at the following site: http://texaslawhelp.org

The only suggestion or advice we can offer is that you contact an attorney, go to a law library or search the internet for necessary information

PROCEDURES FOR FILING YOUR OWN DIVORCE

1. Bring your **Original Petition** (along with **2** copies) to the District Clerk's Office to be filed. If you do not bring copies there will be a $1 per page copy fee. You must include a **Civil Case Information Sheet** when you file your petition

2. The filing fees are:

Divorce without children where spouse signs a waiver $239.00
Divorce with children where spouse signs a waiver.....$283.00
Divorce with a citation..... $231.00

The filing fees for waiver divorces include certified copies of final divorce decree to plaintiff and respondent. The filing fees for a divorce with citation DO NOT include copies of your signed final divorce decree, there will be a $1 per page fee for certified copies of your final decree on the day of your divorce.

3. Your petition will be filed in the 88th District Court or the 356th District Court and assigned a cause number. Please have your cause number available when contacting our office. The District Clerk's Phone #409-246-5150 and our hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

4. The Petition must be on file for at least 60 days before the final hearing can be held.

5. After the 60 days, you may appear before the court to have the final decree heard. To obtain a hearing call either the 356th District Court Coordinator at 409-246-5155 or the 88th District Court Coordinator at 409-246-5151.

6. When you come to the Courthouse for your final hearing bring your **Original Final Decree** (along with any other paperwork to be filed), a completed **Vital Statistics Form** (VS-165) and if child support is being ordered, you must fill out a **Child Support Form**.

7. Report to the assigned courtroom and wait for the court to call your case.

8. The Judge cannot assist you with your divorce. You must know how to present your case in the courtroom.

9. YOU MAY OBTAIN CERTIFIED COPIES OF YOUR DECREE IN THE DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE ONCE THE FINAL HEARING IS OVER.