



# NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
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## San Diego Superior Court Offers “One Day Divorce” Service

The San Diego Superior Court is unveiling a new pilot program to help eligible parties complete a simple divorce in one day. The program, which will go live on March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Downtown Family Court only, will be available to litigants who represent themselves in court and have no contested issues surrounding their divorce. After the initial filing and serving of the petition, these litigants can attain a fast, affordable and fair resolution of their simple divorce.

San Diego Superior Court Presiding Judge David J. Danielsen commented, “In a time when budget cuts are forcing courts all over California to limit services to the public, judges from the San Diego Superior Court, court professionals, and the legal community are leading efforts to innovate improvements to the administration of justice in Family Law.” With the help of a grant from the San Diego Bar Foundation, the court is able to provide this innovative One Day Divorce option to the public.

The first step in the One Day Divorce program is for litigants to sit down with a Family Law expert who will discuss the terms of the couple’s proposed divorce settlement agreement or the default judgment process. The next step includes completing the forms necessary to finalize the divorce. If all the necessary documents and disclosures are completed, the parties appear in court that very same day to receive their

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final judgment. The goal is to have the parties leave the courtroom with the final divorce judgment in their hands.

In California, 72% of family law litigants do not have lawyers. Simple divorces are complicated for self-represented litigants and, as a result, many cases languish in and congest the court system for years. San Diego Superior Court Family Supervising Judge Maureen Hallahan commented that, "One of the biggest complaints about family court is that the process is too complicated and takes too long to complete. The 'One Day Divorce' program was created to help solve these problems."

Judge James Mize of the Sacramento Superior Court created the first "One Day Divorce" program in the state and the San Diego program is modeled after that successful program. Because of the generous support of the San Diego County Bar Foundation, the San Diego Superior Court was able to implement this program without a direct cost to the public. "The entire Board of the Foundation is so pleased to be able to assist the court in offering this program to the community," said Matthew Luxton, President.

The One Day Divorce program is available to parties who do not have attorneys and is set to "go live" on March 1, 2014. The additional requirements and an online screening form are available now. Go to <http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/onedaydivorce> for more information on how you can be a part of this history-making program.

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