

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Defendant's name, address, and telephone number)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant, *Pro Se*

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
CHANCERY DIVISION—FAMILY PART

\_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY  
(County where complaint is filed)

DOCKET NO. FM \_\_\_\_\_  
(Docket number of complaint)

Name: _____ Plaintiff
vs.
Name: _____ Defendant

CIVIL ACTION  
**ANSWER AND  
COUNTERCLAIM FOR  
DIVORCE/DISSOLUTION  
Based on Separation**

The defendant, \_\_\_\_\_, residing at

(Defendant's name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Defendant's address)

\_\_\_\_\_ County, State of \_\_\_\_\_, by way of answer to the

plaintiff's complaint says:

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ the allegations contained in paragraph 1.  
(Admit/deny)
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ the allegations contained in paragraph 2.  
(Admit/deny)
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ the allegations contained in paragraph 3.  
(Admit/deny)
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ the allegations contained in paragraph 4.  
(Admit/deny)

5. I \_\_\_\_\_ the allegations contained in paragraph 5.  
(Admit/deny)
6. I \_\_\_\_\_ the allegations contained in paragraph 6.  
(Admit/deny)
7. I \_\_\_\_\_ the allegations contained in paragraph 7.  
(Admit/deny)
8. I \_\_\_\_\_ the allegations contained in paragraph 8.  
(Admit/deny)

WHEREFORE, defendant demands judgment dismissing plaintiff's complaint together with interests and costs of suit.

COUNTERCLAIM FOR DIVORCE/DISSOLUTION  
Based on Separation

1. The defendant entered into a lawful \_\_\_\_\_ with the plaintiff,  
(Marriage/civil union)  
\_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_\_\_\_ in a \_\_\_\_\_  
(Plaintiff's name) (Date of the marriage/civil union) (Civil or religious)  
ceremony performed by \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Name of the person who performed the ceremony)

2. The parties separated on or about \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Date on which you and plaintiff began to live in separate locations)  
Ever since that time and for 18 consecutive months, the parties have lived separate and apart and in different locations. The separation has continued to the present time, and there is no reasonable prospect of reconciliation.

3. At the point at which defendant and plaintiff had lived separately for at least 18 months, defendant was a *bona fide* resident of the State of New Jersey. Since that date, and for more than one year before the date of filing of this complaint, defendant has continued to be a *bona fide* resident of this state.

4. At the point at which defendant and plaintiff had lived separately for at least 18 months, defendant lived at \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
(Defendant's address at the time the defendant had been separated from plaintiff for 18 months)

City of \_\_\_\_\_, County of \_\_\_\_\_, and  
State of \_\_\_\_\_.

5. The plaintiff, \_\_\_\_\_, resides at  
(Plaintiff's name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Plaintiff's address)

6. (Check the appropriate statement below and fill in information where applicable)

\_\_\_ A. No children were born or adopted during this \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Marriage/civil union)

\_\_\_ B. The following children were born or adopted during this

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Marriage/civil union):

_____	_____
(Name)	(Birth date)
_____	_____
(Name)	(Birth date)
_____	_____
(Name)	(Birth date)
_____	_____
(Name)	(Birth date)
_____	_____
(Name)	(Birth date)
_____	_____
(Name)	(Birth date)
_____	_____
(Name)	(Birth date)

\_\_\_ C. An order for child support was entered on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date of original order)

under docket number \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Docket number of child support case)

7. The plaintiff and defendant in the matter within have been parties to the following prior actions:

(List any other court cases where you or your spouse/civil union partner are involved in a lawsuit, such as cases for adoption, bankruptcy, personal injury, child support, custody, domestic violence, etc.)

- A. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Caption or title of case) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Docket number)
- B. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Caption or title of case) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Docket number)
- C. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Caption or title of case) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Docket number)
- D. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Caption or title of case) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Docket number)

**WHEREFORE**, defendant demands judgment:

(Check the appropriate statement below and fill in information where applicable)

- \_\_\_ A. Dissolving the \_\_\_\_\_ between the parties;  
(Marriage/civil union)
- \_\_\_ B. Ordering that all debts and assets be equitably distributed between the parties;
- \_\_\_ C. Ordering that plaintiff pay child support to defendant;
- \_\_\_ D. Ordering that defendant have physical custody of/be the parent of primary custody for the minor children;
- \_\_\_ E. Ordering that plaintiff pay alimony to defendant;
- \_\_\_ F. Permitting defendant to assume the use of the name of \_\_\_\_\_;  
(The name that you would like to assume after your divorce/dissolution)
- \_\_\_ G. Granting such further relief as the Court may deem just and equitable.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Defendant's signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Defendant's name printed) Defendant, *Pro Se*

Dated \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date on which defendant signs this document)

CERTIFICATION OF VERIFICATION AND NON-COLLUSION PURSUANT TO

R. 4:5-1

1. I am the defendant in the foregoing counterclaim.
2. The allegations of the counterclaim are true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. The counterclaim is made in truth and good faith and without collusion for the causes set forth therein.
3. The matter in controversy in the within action is not the subject of any other action pending in any court or of a pending arbitration proceeding, nor is any such court action or arbitration proceeding presently contemplated. There are no other persons who should be joined in this action at this time.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Defendant's signature)

Defendant, *Pro Se*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Defendant's name printed)

Dated \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date on which defendant signs this document)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this pleading was served within the time permitted by the New Jersey Court Rules.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Defendant's signature)

Defendant, *Pro Se*