

# HOW TO SERVE THE OTHER PARTY AFTER YOU HAVE FILED YOUR COURT PAPERS USING THE ACCEPTANCE OF SERVICE METHOD.

## STEP 1: ASK THE OTHER PARTY TO ACCEPT SERVICE OF THE COURT PAPERS AFTER YOU HAVE FILED THE COURT PAPERS.

- You can ask the other party to accept service by talking to him or her, calling him or her, or sending him or her the letter which is in this packet.
- **WARNING:** Do not do this if you are the victim of domestic violence or believe the other party will hurt you, take your money, or take your children. If you have questions about whether you should use this method, you should see a lawyer for help.
- **The other party cannot sign the Acceptance of Service until after you have filed the court papers. You must provide the other party with copies of the petition and notice of hearing.**

## STEP 2: IF THE OTHER PARTY AGREES TO ACCEPT SERVICE, YOU HAVE THREE OPTIONS:

**A. GO:** You and the other party can go to the filing counter at the courthouse where you filed the court papers. Bring the original Acceptance of Service, plus two copies (one for you and one for the other party.) The other party must now sign the original Acceptance of Service in front of the Clerk at the filing counter. The Clerk will notarize the other person's signature for FREE. The other party must have a valid picture I.D. with him or her for the Notary Public to sign the Acceptance of Service.

**OR**

**B. MEET:** Arrange a meeting place and time with the other party before a Notary Public. Bring the original Acceptance of Service, plus two copies (one for you and one for the other party). You should also bring the notice of hearing and the petition with you in case the other party or the Notary Public wants to see the court papers. The other party must have a valid picture I.D. with him or her for the Notary Public to sign the Acceptance of Service. There is usually a small cost to use a Notary Public.

**OR**

**C. MAIL:** Mail a copy of the petition and the notice of hearing to the other party with the original Acceptance of Service. Ask the other party to sign the Acceptance of Service and tell the other party why you have asked him or her to sign the Acceptance of Service. You may use the form letter in this packet to tell the other party why you have asked him or her to sign the Acceptance of Service.

**AND**

**SIGN:** The other party must sign the Original Acceptance of Service and write in the date he or she signed on the Acceptance of Service. The other party must sign the Original Acceptance of Service in front of a Notary Public. The other party must have a valid picture I.D. with him or her for the Notary Public to sign the Acceptance of Service. There is usually a small cost to use a Notary Public. The other party should then send you the signed and notarized Original Acceptance of Service. You should write the date the other party signed the Acceptance of Service on your copy.

**NOTE:** If the other party does not send back the Acceptance of Service, ask him or her again to send it back. If other party still does not send it back, then you have to serve the other party by one of the other service methods.

## STEP 3: FILE THE SIGNED AND NOTARIZED ACCEPTANCE OF SERVICE AT THE COURT:

- **GO** to the Clerk at the Court where you filed the court papers and file the original Acceptance of Service signed by the other party and notarized.
- **GIVE** the Clerk the original ACCEPTANCE OF SERVICE signed by the other party in front of a notary public
- The Acceptance of Service should be signed by the other party at least ten (10) days before the court hearing.