

Getting Started: Timeline

SETTING EXPECTATIONS

Step 1: Welcome Email

Once you have signed our Agreement to Mediate and paid for our services, we will send out a Welcome Email. This email will include everything you need to get started.

Step 2: Petition Intake

One of the documents you will receive in your Welcome Email is the Petition Intake. This is the first document you will fill out to initiate the legal process. Discuss with your spouse who will be the Petitioner & who will be the Respondent. It has no legal bearing which party you are.

Step 3: Drafting Your Petition

Once we have the petition intake, we will draft your initial documents and send them to the petitioner to sign. The respondent will be CC'd on the documents when they are sent out for signature. All of your initial documents will be drafted in a neutral manner, as we are all working collaboratively.

Step 4: E-file the Documents

Once your documents are signed, they will be E-filed by our office. Filing times vary by court and may take from 24 hours up to 2 weeks.

Step 5: Serving the Petition

Once filed, we'll "serve" the petition by mailing the respondent the summons, petition, and a 'Notice of Acknowledgement and Receipt' to sign and return in a provided envelope. You may also pick up the documents in person if preferred.

Step 6: 6-month Waiting Period

In CA, there is a Mandatory 6 month Waiting Period. This means a minimum of 6-months must go by before the divorce can be final, once the petition is served on the respondent. There is no way to fast track a divorce any quicker than 6-months, in California.

Step 6: Mediation Workbook

Another document attached to your Welcome Email is the Mediation Workbook. Reviewing this before your Preliminary Planning Session (1:1 with your mediator) will help you understand the overall process and the steps involved.

Step 7: ADR Notable Portal

At the same time your Welcome Email is sent out, you will also receive an email with a link to a portal to use to upload all of your sensitive documents.

