



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

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Sacramento Superior Court's One Day Divorce Program Still Going After 10 Years

Sacramento, CA – This month marks the 10th anniversary for Sacramento Superior Court's groundbreaking One Day Divorce Program.

The program is meant to help low- to moderate-income and self-represented couples – or single parties whose spouses have defaulted – complete a simple divorce in one day.

"This first-of-its-kind program has successfully resolved more than 500 cases thanks to dozens of volunteers who make it possible," Sacramento Superior Court Presiding Judge Michael G. Bowman said.

"One Day Divorce" does not mean a divorce is started and completed in a single day. To qualify for the program, participants must have filed a divorce petition and served their spouse with divorce papers.

Once a month, volunteer family law attorneys and local law students help program participants correctly fill out the forms needed to complete the divorce. After a volunteer *pro tem* judge has reviewed these forms, and approved the case for one-day divorce treatment, the participants appear before Superior Court Judge James Mize or another Family Law judge.

In 95% of cases, they leave the courtroom with final and formal judgment of marriage dissolution.

“It is speedy, it is final and we nurture all litigants through the entire process in a way that virtually eliminates any of the stress and worry that would be present if a party tried to handle their divorce without this assistance,” Judge Mize said. “If folks are not wealthy and if they understand that their case is not terribly complex or hotly contested, this program is perfectly suited for them.”

Judge Mize created the One Day Divorce Program after encountering countless couples appearing before him in court who had not completed the process correctly. The program was officially launched in April 2013 following a successful pilot run in December 2012.

Since then, Sacramento Superior Court’s One Day Divorce Program has assisted in resolving 568 cases.

“Ten years later I am delighted with the success of the program, about the energy of the volunteers, and the incredible joy in virtually all of the clients who we served,” said Judge Mize.

In 2022, 84% of litigants who had pending Family Law cases with Sacramento Superior Court did not have lawyers.

One Day Divorce Program clinics are held on the second Friday of each month by appointment only. To participate, parties must register and use the Family Law Facilitator's Office e-Correspondence System to request an appointment to attend the clinic at <https://services.saccourt.ca.gov/flfoecorrespondence/>.