

INFORMATION FOR PRO SE LITIGANTS - 474th District Court

When you are ready to set your case for final hearing, please contact
Pro Se Coordinator, Kim Harris
at 254-757-5289 or kim.harris@co.mclennan.tx.us

DO NOT CALL TO SET YOUR CASE FOR FINAL HEARING UNTIL:

- 1) A signed and notarized Waiver of Service has been filed with the District Clerk;
or
- 2) The respondent has been served with citation, the citation return has been on file at least ten (10) days and respondent's answer date has passed, or any time **after** respondent has filed an answer; **and**
- 3) A Final Divorce Decree or an Order in Suit Affecting The Parent/Child Relationship is prepared and ready to deliver to Ms. Harris for review and judge's approval prior to setting the hearing.

If you are representing yourself (Pro Se) in a divorce or in a Suit Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship, please understand the following: You must present a complete Decree or Order that settles all issues. The Court will not review the Decree or Order for completion and will not confirm that the Decree or Order is properly drafted. You cannot rely on the Court signing the Decree or Order as a representation that the Decree or Order is accurate and actually settles all of the issues as you wish or that it adequately covers all of the issues you have a right to have covered.

If you are thinking about handling your legal matter by yourself (Pro Se), without an attorney, make sure that you fully understand all of the steps involved. Further, make sure you understand your legal rights. **You will be solely responsible for protecting yourself.**

Only a licensed attorney is allowed to give you legal advice. Neither the Judge, nor any of the courthouse staff, can give you legal advice. You are encouraged to hire a lawyer to protect your rights.

Please note that in a divorce, the case cannot be finalized if the wife is pregnant at the time of the final hearing.

Further, in a divorce, if a child has been the subject of a prior Court Order either here or in another county, the prior court case must be transferred to this Court and/or consolidated with the divorce case.

Information may be obtained from local and state websites including, but not limited to: www.texaslawhelp.org www.tyla.org/familylaw.html