



arizona coalition against domestic violence

Consequences of Avoiding Court Service

respond to have your voice heard in court

Do you think that someone might be trying to serve you with court papers about divorce, legal decision-making (custody), or parenting time? Even if the person trying to serve you can't find you—if you're out of state or in shelter—the court process can go on without you, without your having an opportunity to tell a judge your side. You can even be served “by publication” (a notice in the newspaper).

You can explain to the court what you want by filing a response. If someone is trying to serve you and you don't respond, there can be negative consequences.

You have 20 days from the date of service to respond to court papers. If you do not respond within 20 days of service, the person trying to serve you can file for a default judgment. A default judgment allows the person who is trying to serve you to get what he or she asked for, because the judge never had an opportunity to hear your side. The person trying to serve you can get a default judgment 10 days after requesting it. If you don't respond, a judge will make decisions about your family without input from you.

To see if a court process about you or your family has begun, contact the Clerk of Court in the county where you or your ex-partner lives, or where a court may have previously issued an order.* It is important to check with the Clerk every few days to make sure you don't miss a filing deadline or a court date. There is a delay from when something is filed to when it is available online, so even if you can look up your case online, it is important to call the Clerk. When you call the Clerk you can ask: “Is there anything that has been filed in Family Court that I need to respond to?”

Apache County Clerk of the Superior Court	928-337-7550
Cochise County Clerk of the Superior Court	520-432-8570
Coconino County Clerk of the Superior Court	928- 679-7600
Gila County Clerk of the Superior Court	928-425-3231
Graham County Clerk of the Superior Court	928- 428-3100
Greenlee County Clerk of the Superior Court	928-865-4242
La Paz County Clerk of the Superior Court	928-669-6131
Maricopa County Clerk of the Superior Court	602-506-3754 (Phoenix) 602-506-2137 (Mesa) 602-372-9437 (Northwest) 602-372-7710 (Northeast)
Mohave County Clerk of the Superior Court	928-753-0713
Navajo County Clerk of the Superior Court	928-524-4188 (Holbrook) 928-532-6003 (Show Low) 928-289-6803 (Winslow) 928-535-7103 (Heber)
Pima County Clerk of the Superior Court	520-740-3200
Pinal County Clerk of the Superior Court	520-866-5300
Santa Cruz County Clerk of the Superior Court	520-375-7800
Yavapai County Clerk of the Superior Court	928-777-3040
Yuma County Clerk of the Superior Court	928-817-4222

*This may require you to contact a court in another state.

For more information/resources and to discuss options and concerns, please contact The Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Hotline at 800-782-6400 or speak to another domestic violence legal advocate.