



**Petition for Dissolution**  
Approximately 2 weeks to complete once all necessary information and documents are received

**Service of Documents on Spouse (Respondent)**  
May be done via mail or by personal service. Can take 1-3 weeks

**Answer**  
Respondent has 30 days to serve a response (answer) to petition

**Default**  
Respondent does NOT provide an answer/response  
This is not common

**Lower Conflict**  
Spouses generally get along and agree on most issues

**Higher Conflict**  
Spouses don't agree on much or anything

**Informal Discovery**  
1-2 months  
Parties provide each other with documents to determine value of property, debts, and assets

**Formal Discovery**  
2-3 months  
Parties provide each other with Interrogatories and Request for Production of Documents to get very detailed information about all debts and assets

**Motion for Temporary Relief**  
A request to the Court to issue a temporary order while the divorce is pending. Usually related to parenting time, finances, child support, or spousal maintenance. Can occur at anytime during the divorce but generally happens in the beginning/middle and in cases where it is anticipated it may be at least 9+ months before a final agreement or trial order.

**Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)**  
1-2 months  
Attempts to come to an agreement through mediation, early neutral evaluation, or negotiations between attorneys

**Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)**  
2-4 months  
Attempts to come to an agreement through mediation, early neutral evaluation, or negotiations between attorneys

**Settlement**  
1-2 months  
Attorneys negotiate final details and draft Marital Termination Agreement (MTA)

**Prepare for Trial**  
3-9 months  
(Varies greatly based on when the Court has availability for trial) Get trial dates, hire experts (financial, appraisers, custody), obtain expert reports, finalize exhibits, finalize witnesses, prep client for trial. Settlement and negotiation attempts generally continue during this time

**Finalization**  
1-3 months  
All parties sign the MTA and it is filed with the Court. The Judge will either sign off on the agreement or schedule a hearing to finalize it

**Trial**  
1-3 days  
Plus an additional 30 days for Post-Trial Documents completed by Attorneys

**Wrap Up**  
2-3 months  
Attorneys draft any post-dissolution documents as noted in the MTA, which may include documents to divide retirement plans or to transfer property

**Judge's Order**  
90 days after submission of post-trial documents

**Wrap Up**  
2-3 months  
Attorneys draft any post-dissolution documents as noted in the MTA, which may include documents to divide retirement plans or to transfer property

**Total Time**  
6 months to 15 months

**Total Time**  
15 months to 24 months

If ADR is successful