

## **ACCESSING FORMS ON THE MONTANA STATE SUPREME COURT WEBSITE**

On the address bar, type in [www.courts.mt.gov](http://www.courts.mt.gov); this takes you to the *Montana State Supreme Court* page. Scroll down to and click on "Represent Yourself" in gray box. (Other good resources on this page are the video and Court Rules, please review them, they are *extremely* helpful.)

After you watch the video and review Court Rules, scroll down to and click on "Forms" in gray box. On this screen you'll see the blue box with dozens of topics. Scroll down and click on the one you're interested in. In each category, you will see a list of documents, most of which you will use. They can be printed out and filled out (legibly) by hand. Beaverhead County is in the **FIFTH** Judicial District.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN **MARRIAGE DISSOLUTION FORMS**, left click on that topic. You will see 3 categories of dissolution forms (each with or without children), and parenting plan forms. You should select the category that fits your situation and double left click on it:

- ❖ The first category, "**Dissolution**", is used when one party requests the dissolution. The second party will have to be served with the petition, summons, parenting plan (if the parties have children together), and disclosure document, OR acknowledge in writing that he/she received those documents. He/she then is allowed 21 days to respond to the petition. If he/she does not, the first party can request that his/her default be entered and a hearing on the petition can be scheduled.
- ❖ The second category, "**Joint Dissolution**", is used when both parties request the dissolution. Since both parties are petitioners, there is no necessity to serve anybody and a hearing on the petition can be scheduled without waiting for the 20 days.
- ❖ The third category, "**Summary Dissolution**", is used when both parties request the dissolution AND meet certain asset and debt limit requirements. These requirements are outlined in the explanatory documents included with the forms. Both parties must appear for the hearing.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN **PARENTING PLAN FORMS ONLY**, left click on that topic. You will see several categories of parenting plan forms. Double left click on the one that fits your situation. The first 3 categories on this page are in regards to amending/enforcing your parenting plan. If you do not yet have a parenting plan, scroll down to "**Petition for Parenting Plan Packet**." If you are answering a Petition for Parenting Plan, click on "**Answer to Petition for Parenting Plan**."

**FEES:** If you would like to ask the Court's permission to file without paying the fee, please ask the Clerk of District Court for the Affidavit of Inability to Pay Fees. This Court has a specific one to use and prefers you not use the one on this website.

**IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN:** child support is to be computed using the Child Support Enforcement Division guidelines. They can be located online by first going to [www.dphhs.mt.gov/csed/index.shtml](http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/csed/index.shtml), then selecting "**CSSED Forms**" from the choices on the left side, then "**Montana Child Support Guideline Worksheets**" to print off the packet. Please be advised that in Beaverhead County there is a requirement that the parties attend a class on co-parenting children. These classes are scheduled locally 3 or 4 times a year, depending on demand. Parenting classes are also available in Bozeman (Sano Connection, 1946 Stadium DR, Suite 2, Bozeman, 59715, 406-587-9486) or Ravalli County (Ravalli County Clerk of District Court, 406-375-6716); call either one to make arrangements. The classes in these locations are available on a more frequent basis. **You can also take a free class on-line:** [www.uptoparents.org](http://www.uptoparents.org) (for married parents) or [www.proudtoparent.org](http://www.proudtoparent.org) (for unmarried parents). Other on-line options include [www.makingtwohomeswork.com](http://www.makingtwohomeswork.com) and <http://parentingwisely.com>; these classes charge a moderate fee.

**Notice:** Documents filed can and most likely will end up on the Internet once the technology is available. **It will be your responsibility to make sure that private information is not included in the documents that you file.** This website contains many frequently asked questions and can help you out.

**Good tip:** Read the instructions. They are very helpful.

If questions, or unable to find a certain form, please contact the Montana State Law Library Self Help Law Center at 406-444-9300 or [statelawlibraryselfhelp@gmail.com](mailto:statelawlibraryselfhelp@gmail.com).