

## Checklist to Respond to Motion to Excuse Mandatory Divorce Mediation (Decided by a Judge)

- You must complete a form before you file it. These instructions will help you complete the forms.
- Court staff cannot complete a form for you.
- Attach a copy of any document referred to in the form.
- Keep a copy of all documents for your records.
- Attend all court hearings.
- Some forms may not apply in your case.
- Contact the Self Help Center if you need more help:  
<http://www.utcourts.gov/selfhelp/contact/>.

Motions decided by a judge are governed by [Utah Rule of Civil Procedure 7](#). Use this checklist only if your case is being heard in [Judicial District 5, 6, 7 or 8](#). If you are in [Judicial District 1, 2, 3 or 4](#), use the Checklist for commissioners instead.

Motions decided by a judge and motions decided by a commissioner follow different procedures. The documents are not different, but the time for filing them and the procedures for a hearing are.

- If a motion will be decided by a **judge**, a hearing is not scheduled until after all of the documents have been filed. Also, a Request to Submit must be filed before the judge can consider the motion.
- If a motion will be decided by a **commissioner**, a hearing is scheduled when the motion is filed, and the documents have to be filed and served before the hearing. A Request to Submit is not filed for motions considered by a commissioner.

If you are not sure whether your motion will be decided by a judge or a commissioner, call the court to find out.

### (1) Statement Opposing Motion

If the you do not agree with the motion, you must file a Statement Opposing the Motion within 14 days after the motion was served on you.

- Print your name and contact information at the top of the first page. Check whether you are the Petitioner or Respondent or the attorney for the Petitioner or Respondent.

- Check District Court. Print the judicial district number, the county name and the court address on the blank lines. Complete the heading exactly as it appears in the petition. Check the correct box to show that the statement opposes the motion. After “Motion to,” write “Excuse Mandatory Divorce Mediation” in the blank line.
- If you want to ask for a hearing, check the box next to “hearing requested.” If there is no hearing, the judge will decide the motion based on the papers that have been filed. If one party requests a hearing and the other party does not, both parties are still allowed an opportunity to present oral arguments, if a hearing is held.
- Paragraph (1): State the facts relevant to the motion that are within the first-hand knowledge of the person signing the statement. This means the person must have observed the facts personally, rather than being told about the facts.
- Paragraph (2): Check the correct box to show whether you request a hearing. If there is no hearing, the judge will decide the motion based on the papers that have been filed. If one party requests a hearing and the other party does not, both parties are still allowed an opportunity to present oral arguments, if a hearing is held.
- Paragraph (3): List and attach any documents you want to use to support the facts.
- Do not include any private or protected information on this form. When filed, this form is a public record. [Rule 4-202.09\(9\)](#) requires that you omit from a public record any information that is not itself public information. For a list of records, data and information classified as public, private, and protected, see [Rule 4-202.02](#).
- Attach any required documents and forms.
- Date and sign the form.
- Complete the Certificate of Service.
- Serve the form and any attachments on the other party by one of the methods described in the certificate of service. [URCP 5](#) governs service.
- File the original form, attachments and certificate of service with court staff.

## **(2) Reply Statement (if applicable)**

If you file a Statement Opposing the Motion, the other party may file a Reply, but only to respond to something being raised for the first time in your opposing statement. If the opposing statement and its supporting documents merely make statements of fact and

legal arguments against the points made in the motion, then the other party cannot file a Reply.

### **(3) Request to Submit for Decision**

The motion and other documents will not be given to the judge to decide until one of the parties completes and files a Request to Submit for Decision. Either party may file a Request to Submit, but someone must do so.

Do not file the Request to Submit for Decision until after the Reply to the Statement Opposing the Motion has been filed or the time for filing has passed. (7 days after the Statement Opposing the Motion was served.)

- Print your name and contact information at the top of the first page. Check whether you are the Petitioner or Respondent or the attorney for the Petitioner or Respondent.
- Check District Court. Print the judicial district number, the county name and the court address on the blank lines. Complete the heading exactly as it appears in the petition.
- If you want to ask for a hearing, check the box next to “hearing requested.” If there is no hearing, the judge will decide the motion based on the papers that have been filed. If one party requests a hearing and the other party does not, both parties are still allowed an opportunity to present oral arguments, if a hearing is held.
- Paragraph (1): Print the name of the motion to be submitted for decision and the date the motion was served on the other party.
- Paragraphs (2) - (4): Check the correct boxes and print the dates to show which documents have been filed and served.
- Paragraph (5): Check the correct box to show whether you request a hearing.
- Date and sign the form.
- Attach the required documents.
- Complete the Certificate of Service.
- Serve the form and any attachments on the other party by one of the methods described in the certificate of service. [URCP 5](#) governs service.
- File the original form and certificate of service with court staff.

### **(4) Notice of Hearing**

If you have requested a hearing, call the judge’s judicial assistant to find out whether your request has been granted. Schedule the hearing with the assistant and complete

this form. Select a date that is convenient for you, the other party and the court. Otherwise, do not file this form.

- Print your name and contact information at the top of the first page.
- Check the correct box to show whether the court is the District Court. Print the judicial district number, the county name and the court address on the blank lines. Complete the heading exactly as it appears in the complaint/petition.
- Identify Petitioner and Respondent by name and address.
- Print the name of the motion on the blank line. Print the date and time of the hearing. Print also the judge's name and courtroom number for the hearing.
- Date and sign the form.
- Complete the Certificate of Service.
- Serve the form and any attachments on the other party by one of the methods described in the certificate of service. [URCP 5](#) governs service.
- File the original form with court staff.

#### **(5) Attend the Hearing**

If there is a hearing, be sure to attend.

#### **(6) Order on Motion to Excuse Mandatory Divorce Mediation**

- Print your name and contact information at the top of the first page. Check whether you are the Petitioner or Respondent or the attorney for the Petitioner or Respondent.
- Print the judicial district number, the county name and the court address on the blank lines. Complete the heading exactly as it appears in the petition. Print the name of the motion on the blank line.
- If the motion is not granted by default, do not complete the rest of the documents unless you are told to do so. Either the judge will complete the rest of the documents or tell one of the parties to do so.
- Attach any required documents or forms.

If there is a hearing, the judge will decide the issues and will tell one of the parties to prepare the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order. Listen carefully to the judge's decision. The documents must agree with that decision, and you may have to prepare them.

- If you are told to prepare the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order, complete all of them except the judge's signature. What you write in the documents must agree with what the judge decided.

- Date and sign the proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order under the phrase: “approved as to form.”
- Within 21 days after being told to prepare the documents, serve them on the other party by one of the methods described in the certificate of service. URCP 5 governs service.
- The other party has 7 days in which to object.
- File the original Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order and the Certificate of Service with court staff after the time to object has ended.

**(7) Notice of Order**

If you prepared the order, or if the judge says you have to serve the signed order:

- Print your name and contact information at the top of the Notice of Order. Check whether you are the Petitioner or Respondent or the attorney for the Petitioner or Respondent.
- Check District Court. Print the judicial district number, the county name and the court address on the blank lines. Complete the heading exactly as it appears in the complaint/petition.
- Attach any required documents and forms.
- Date and sign the form.
- Complete the Certificate of Service.
- Serve the form and any attachments on the other party by one of the methods described in the certificate of service. [URCP 5](#) governs service.
- File the original form and attachments with court staff.