

# Dismissal and Suspension

**NOTICE:** Family and divorce laws change often. These forms may not be appropriate for all situations. They are intended to be useful in many cases and may have to be changed in some way to fit your case. Talk to a lawyer if you are unsure that these forms are the most appropriate for your situation. **Court staff cannot give legal advice.**

## Stipulation and Order Dismissing Divorce/Legal Separation (FA-4143VA/B) forms

These forms are used when both parties agree to dismiss or end the pending divorce/legal separation action. If the parties dismiss the action and later choose to divorce or legally separate, they must file a new action and again pay all the required fees.

## Stipulation and Order Suspending Proceedings to Effect Reconciliation (FA-4144VA/B) forms

These forms are used to suspend (put on hold) the divorce/legal separation action for up to 90 days. Both parties must agree. If a temporary order is in effect, all orders are also suspended. Once the divorce/legal separation is suspended, the following options apply:

- **Reconcile (get back together):** If at any point during the suspension, the parties **agree** to reconcile, they may complete the **Stipulation and Order Dismissing Divorce/Legal Separation (FA-4143VA/B)** (see below) forms to end the divorce/legal separation action.
- **End the suspension and continue with the divorce/legal separation:** Either party may make this request at any time during the suspension. If so, they must complete the **Motion and Order to Revoke Suspension of Proceedings to Effect Reconciliation (FA-4145VA/B)** forms and mail a copy to the court and the other party. All temporary orders previously entered by the court will be reinstated.

## Procedural Checklist

1. Complete either the **Stipulation and Order Dismissing Divorce/Legal Separation (FA-4143VA/B)** forms or the **Stipulation and Order Suspending Proceedings (FA-4145VA/B)** forms.
2. Make three (3) copies of the completed original **Stipulation and Order** forms. Make an additional copy if the State of Wisconsin (Child Support Agency) is a party to the action.
3. Prepare two (2) self-addressed stamped envelopes (one addressed to you and one addressed to the other party) so the court can send each party a copy of the **Order** after the court has signed it. If the State of Wisconsin (Child Support Agency) is a party, prepare one unstamped envelope addressed to the Child Support Agency.

4. Mail or deliver the original, copies, and self-addressed stamped envelopes to the court. If the State of Wisconsin (Child Support Agency) is a party, also mail or deliver a copy to the Child Support Agency. The court will review, sign, and have a signed copy returned to you.
5. If you requested a:
- A. **Dismissal:** There is nothing more you need to do once the court has approved the stipulation. Your divorce/legal separation will be dismissed.
- B. **Suspension:** The 90 day suspension begins the date the court signs the order. During the 90 day suspension you may:
- i. **Reconcile** and complete the form to dismiss the divorce (Complete the **Stipulation and Order Dismissing Divorce/Legal Separation (FA-4143V)** forms and repeat #'s 1-4 above).
- ii. **End** the suspension and continue with the divorce/legal separation.
- a. Complete the **Motion and Order to Revoke Suspension of Proceedings to Effect Reconciliation (FA-4145VA/B)** forms. All temporary orders will resume upon signature of the court.
- b. Make three (3) copies of the completed original **Motion and Order to Revoke Suspension of Proceedings to Effect Reconciliation** forms. Make an additional copy if the State of Wisconsin (Child Support Agency) is a party to the action.
- c. Prepare two (2) self-addressed stamped envelopes (one addressed to you and one addressed to the other party) so the court can send each party a copy of the **Order** after the court has signed it. If the State of Wisconsin (Child Support Agency) is a party, prepare one unstamped envelope addressed to the Child Support Agency.
- d. Mail or deliver the original, copies, and self-addressed stamped envelopes to the court. If the State of Wisconsin (Child Support Agency) is a party, also mail or deliver a copy to the Child Support Agency. The court will review, sign, and have a signed copy returned to you.