**Checklist—Divorce in Washington**

**Draft Petition**: reserve financial issues unless default or joinder likely.

**Filing**:

* Always Need: $314, Case Cover Sheet, Petition, Summons, Conf. Info. Form, Health Dept. Form
* When Kids: Proposed Parenting Plan, Financial Decl., Proposed Worksheets, Financial Source Docs (with Sealed Cover Sheet)
* When Motion for Temp. Orders: Motion, Clients Decl., Supporting Decl.s (see Bundled Supporting Decl.s folder), Calendar Note (write confirmation note on Outlook)

--*if maintenance and no kids*: Financial Source Docs & Financial Declaration

* State Need Copies?

**Service of Process**:

**Schedule Parenting Class**:

**Confirm Hearing on Temp. Orders** (if filed motion and local rules require confirmation):

**Hearing on Temp. Orders**:

**GAL Letter if GAL Appointed**:

* Describe concerns
* Provide GAL with copies of pleadings

**Remember re GAL**:

* Tell truth
* Clean house; educational activity
* Talking points: written list of concerns about OP + your advantages
* Practice talking points

**No Response By 21 Days**?

* Ex Parte Motion for Default if No Appearance
* Calendared Motion if Appearance

**Note for Trial** (unless trial date automatically assigned per local county rules)

**Discovery Requests**: good idea? Might get same in return

* Interrogatories: Calendar due date
* Deposition(s): OP, Witnesses (subpoenas needed), Child(ren) (advise of risks and benefits)?

**Once Know Trial Date**:

* Write Related Dates on Calendar: Trial, Trial Confirmation, Discovery Cutoff, ER 904 Deadline

**Report from GAL?** If one appointed, court will want report before hearings on custody

**Additional Hearings** (e.g. review hearing(s))

* If Custody Issue: GAL Report; For Kids’ Sake

**Settlement Letter**: Can skip if already engaged in informal negotiations and know positions

**Schedule Mediation**: Preferably 6-8 weeks before trial

**Ex Parte Presentation of Final Proof** (if settle)

* What need: signed final docs, JIS (give 5 court days before), 4 Kids’ Sake, extra copy of Findings & Conclusions

--*Extra Signatures Sometimes Needed*: GAL on Parenting Plan; State on Support Order

* At Presentation: Pose findings as questions; whether want name change

--*If Kids*: Parenting Plan best interest of child(ren); any deviations or imputation for support

**Trial**:

* Subpoenas for witnesses
* Confirm trial
* Trial brief
* Motions in limine
* JIS & parenting class completion certificate
* Exhibit binders (min 4 copies—more if GAL, State, or other parties seeking custody)