

WHERE DO WE START?!

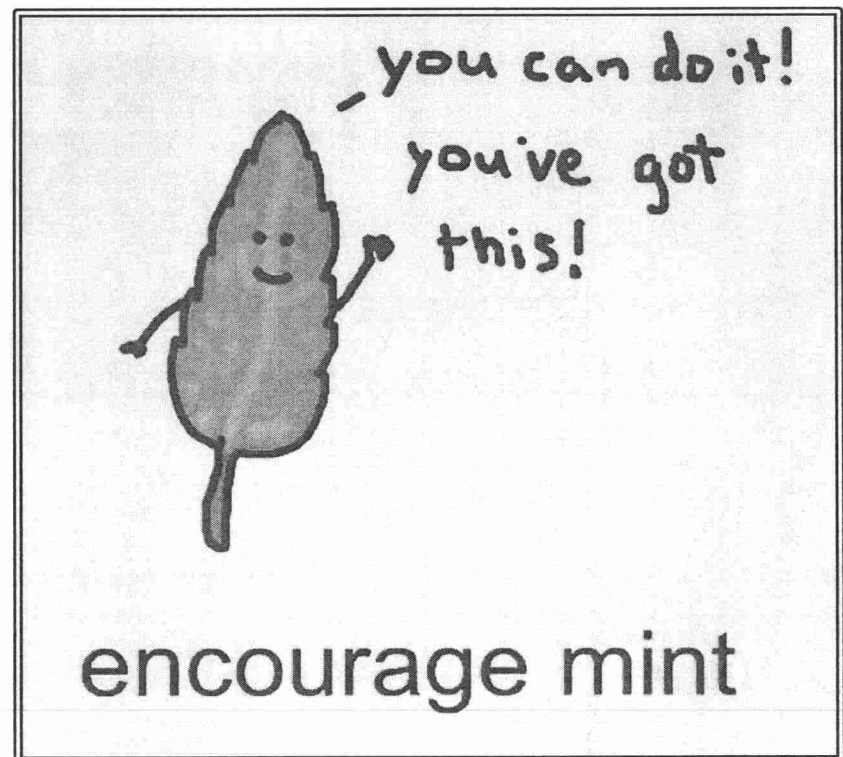
The Texas Family Code

Section 1.002: "Court" means the district court, juvenile court having the jurisdiction of a district court, or other court expressly given jurisdiction of a suit under this title.

District Courts

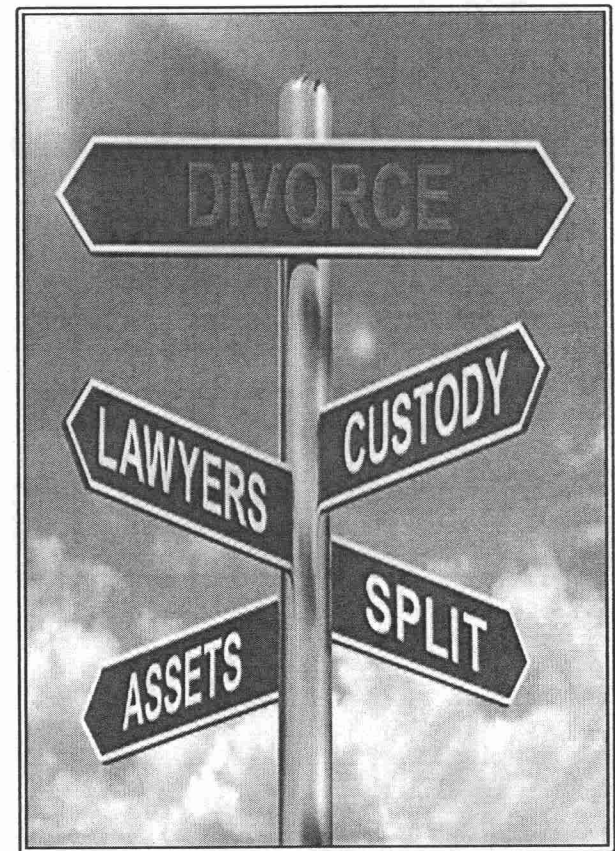
AJ Courts

County Courts at Law



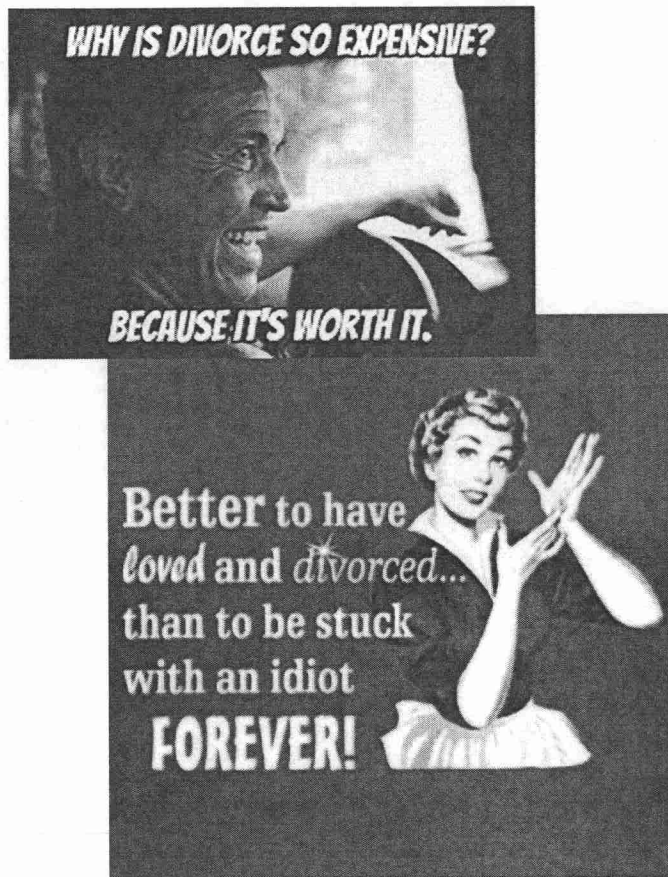
FAMILY LAW MATTERS

- Divorce
 - Child Custody, Child Support, Access
 - Property Settlements
- SAPCR
 - Adjudicating Parentage
 - Child Custody, Child Support, Access
- ENFORCEMENT
- TERMINATION
- ADOPTION
- PROTECTIVE ORDERS



PETITIONS

Petitions for Divorce or Suit Affecting Parent Child Relationship (SAPCR) are filed with the clerk of the court.



Petitions for divorce must contain:

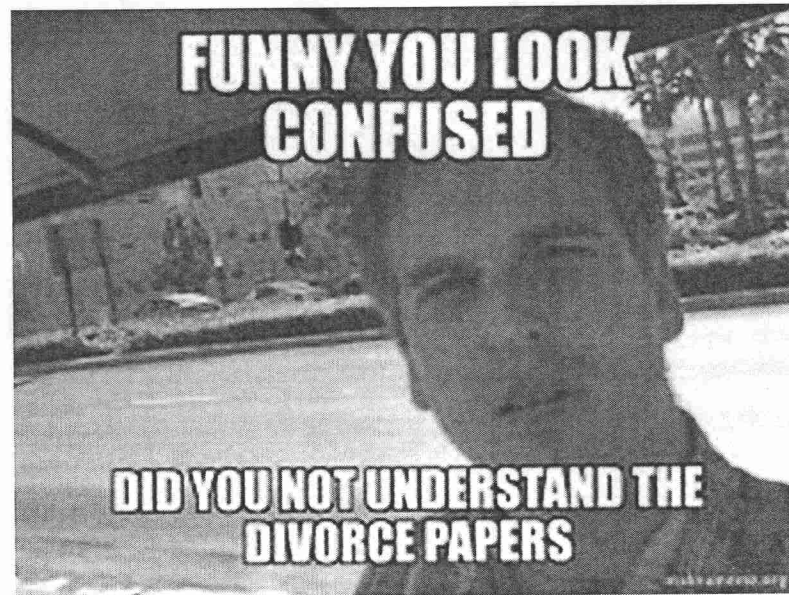
- The discovery level under which the case is to be conducted;
- Whether there is an objection to having the case heard by an associate judge;
- The names of the parties;
- Jurisdiction requirements;
- Service address, no service necessary or service via publication (with attached exhibit);
- Whether a protective order exists (attached if applicable or promise to be filed before any hearing TFC§6.405(b));
- Whether there are minor children (if applicable TFC §6.406(b) and information on the children as required by TFC §102.008); and
- Whether health insurance is available for the child.

TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDERS

You guys are experts at Temporary Orders after the last session. 😊

TEMPORARY HEARINGS

- Limited amount of time to present evidence
- MAJOR ISSUES
 - Housing
 - Children
 - Vehicles
 - Businesses
 - Temporary usage
 - Injunctions
- Temporary Orders



Practice Tip- The Respondent has a statutory right to three days notice of the temporary hearing!

FINAL HEARINGS

- Prove-ups
- *Pro Se* Hearings
- Trials to the bench
- Trials to a jury



Practice Tip- Contested hearings require a 45 day notice period. Make sure you expedite orders setting final hearings so the 45 day requirement is met.



PRO SE LITIGANTS

- Texas Bench Book states: "Litigants should be notified (perhaps with notice by the Clerk at the time of filing) that they are required to follow the same rules and necessary procedures as attorneys."
- WAIVERS
 - Specific
 - General
- Parent Stabilization Course as required by TFC
- Final Hearings
 - Written request
 - Pro Se Day
 - Extra hands on deck
 - No orders directly to pro se parties

Me: Hey, so I'm hoping
you can help me....

Court Clerk:



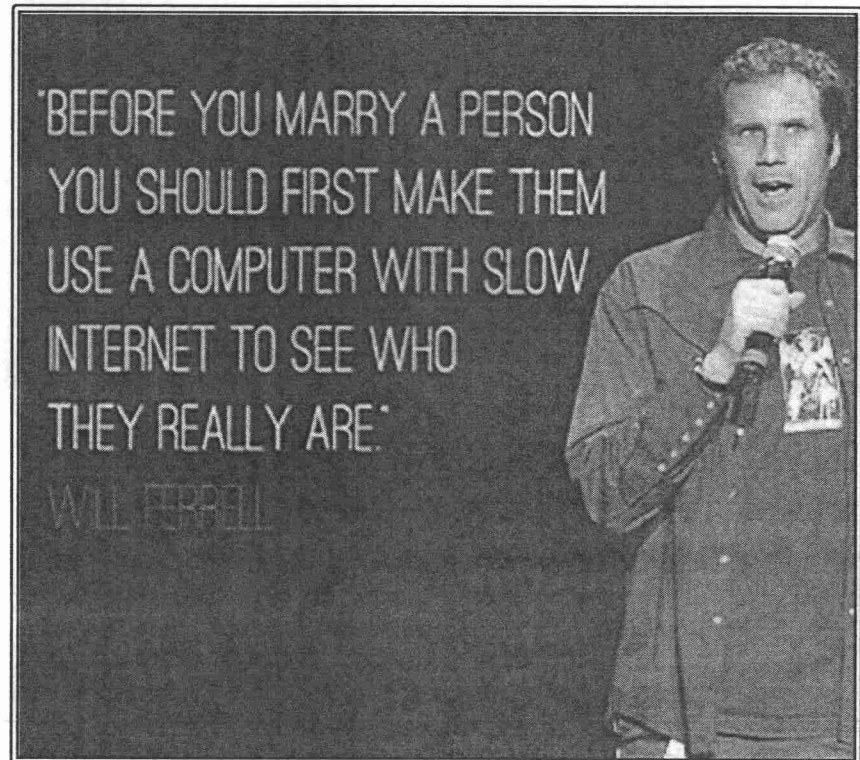
Practice Tip- Get to know your Court!

Practice Tip- Pamphlets are your BEST FRIEND when it comes to pro se parties!

Practice Tip- Standardize your process!! Your Court will thank you. ☺

MISCELLANEOUS

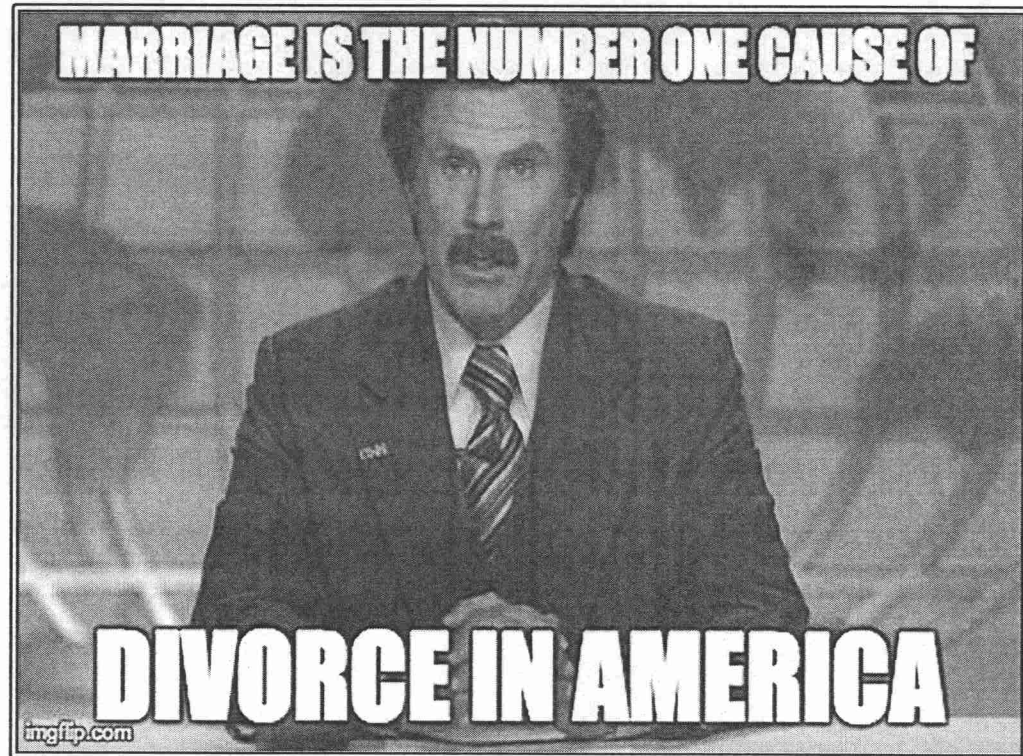
- Sovereign Citizens
- Indigent Fees
 - Statement of inability to pay court costs
 - Objection filed, hearing in Court with clerk
 - Order presentment
- COVID-19, ZOOM and Docket Sheets
- Required consolidations
- Reopening of cases
- Final Decrees
- *Ex Parte* Communications
- Prove up script
- WRITS
- XP Extraordinary relief



INTERESTING STATISTICS

- According to the Office of Court Administration, 40% of all new filings are domestic/family law filings.
- Researchers have estimated that a divorce occurs every 13 seconds in the US.
- Researchers have also found that divorces vary by month!
Holidays and Vacations seasons are slow times for filings.
- Top 10 cities in Texas with the highest divorce rates are:

Paris, Bellmead, Rockdale, Sinton, Brady, Port Lavaca, Decatur, Gatesville, Giddings and Kerrville



No. 55-04521

POST PAID
6700

In the matter of the Marriage of } In the District Court of

PAUL FRANK HENSLER,
Petitioner

} Harris County, Texas

And

} 246TH
Judicial Dist.

Original Petition For DIVORCE

To the Honorable Judge of SAID Court

Comes now PAUL FRANK

HENSLER, Petitioner in the ABOVE

Entitled and Numbered CAUSE OF

ACTION and FILES this, His ORIGINAL

PETITION and for Cause would show

the Right Reverend and Very HONORABLE

COURT as follows; TO WIT:

I.

This Suit is brought by PAUL
FRANK HENSLER Petitioner who

is FORTY SIX (46) years of age

and who resides at

Respondent,

is a "TRANSIENT PERSON",

having her residence in a 1970
Chrysler.

II

Petitioner has been a Domiciliary
of this LONE STAR STATE for FORTY

SIX YEARS (a native Texan, if you please

by right of birth) and a Resident of

HARRIS COUNTY for the preceding

FIFTEEN MONTHS (Against his will, having

left the HILL COUNTRY NORTH of AUSTIN

where lawyers were in low demand and

having moved to beautiful STINKADENA)

III

Respondent, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], alias [REDACTED]

who knows all, tells all, and SDBS
ALL (ask TED BUTLER or BILL WHITE,
JUDGE WM. SESSIONS, JUDGE THOMAS GEE,
and, yes, even the Clerk of the Supreme
COURT U.S. about her litigious
nature). That wonderful and delightful
person whom Petitioner loves with
all his O, despite it all, is a
"TRANSIENT PERSON" and may
be SERVED with Process where
she may be found within the State
of TX (TEXAS), pursuant to pertinent
RULES of CIVIL PROCEDURE

IV

These parties were joined together
in HOLY MATRIMONY by the VERY
HONORABLE FRANCES
PORTER, JUSTICE OF THE
PEACE in Lampasas, Lampasas
County, Texas on the 29th
Day of March, in the year of our
Lord, A.D. 1983. They CEASED living
together as HUSBAND AND WIFE
on Monday January 21, 1984, when
she got PISSED OFF and HAULED
ASS with the car, the Mastercard,
\$365.00 CASH, Her FEDERAL
CIVIL RIGHTS NINE YEAR
OLD EMPLOYMENT DISCRIM-
INATION CASE against Ted Butler
Bill White, and the Texas Department of

Human Resources, to which she is
WELCOME, having BORED
ME STIFF for 2 years about
just how Everybody PICKS ON
[REDACTED]

IV.

THIS MARRIAGE has become
very INSUPPORTABLE because of,
for him, conflict of personalities between
Petitioner and Respondent, but chiefly
because of conflict of personalities
between Respondent and Respondent
that destroyed the legitimate
ends of the marriage (good sex!)
and prevents any Reasonable
Expectation of Reconciliation (unless
she consents to having her MOUTH
SURGICALLY CLOSED).

V.

THERE is NO child born or
adopted of this MARRIAGE ALTHOUGH
Petitioner SWEARS ON OATH that he
did everything he COULD to KNOCK
HER UP, but she isnt pregnant
and won't have another CHILD,
although Petitioner LOVES HER
DEARLY and wants her to have
his children, but she is LIBERATED
now and "Feminists" don't have
children by "MALE CHAUVINIST
Pig LAWYERS," she SO SWEARS.

VI

Petitioner requests the COURT
TO DIVIDE THE ESTATE OF THE
PARTIES BY AWARding Their
PROPERTY TO THE PARTY HAVING

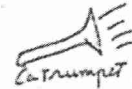
POSSESSION

(in a legal sense, not the
kind of "possession" by spirits
you see in movies, although
[REDACTED] could pass muster for
a stand-in for "SYBLE" or the
girl in "THE EXORCIST.")

VII

The Petitioner, PAUL FRANK HENSLEY
Prays that CITATION and
NOTICE issue as required
by LAW and that the Court
GRANT A DIVORCE
and Decree such other and further
relief as requested herein,
including changing Respondent's
name to BELLA ABZUG, JR., for

Costs of suit and for



TA-TA-TA-TAAA



(drum ROLLS)

STAND BACK, ITS ALMOST

Here - Ed McMahon on stage
Now -

HEEEER's

GENERAL RELIEF



(Screw you, bitch, I filed FIRST AND YOUR SUIT
IS SUBJECT TO
A PLA IN A BATHING) Respectfully submitted

Paul F. Hensley

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ATTORNEY FOR Petitioner