

DuPage County Court Forms Study

Key Information

The purpose of this research is primarily to assess which types of court forms and instructions are most effective for helping users like you with your legal case. The researchers are interested in tracking whether you are able to navigate your legal case based on the form or forms you have downloaded. We invite you to take part in this research study because you are seeking a pro se divorce. Your participation will involve using the old version or the new version of the court forms. We believe there is little to no risk from participating in this research. There are no benefits to you from your taking part in this research however the research may lead to improved forms for those seeking a divorce such as yours.

If I do not want to be included, how do I obtain the court forms I need?

Court forms and assistance can be obtained at the DuPage County Courthouse, located at 505 N County Farm Rd, Wheaton, IL 60187. Or you may obtain forms online by [clicking here](#).

Detailed Information

What is the purpose of this research study?

The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts has been working to make court forms easier to use for the general public. It has developed a number of new forms and is collaborating with researchers at Harvard Law School to evaluate whether these forms improve the court process and help users like you with your legal case. The purpose of this study is to compare the effectiveness of various types of court forms. We invite you to take part in a research study because you are attempting to download a court form for use in order to file for divorce. Note that the results of the research will be used to improve the development of court forms and the aggregate results, without identifying information, may be published.

Is participation in this study voluntary?

Your participation in this research is purely voluntary. You may refuse to participate or discontinue your participation at any time without any penalty or loss of benefits that you would otherwise be entitled to.

How long will the research last and what will I need to do?

To agree to participate in this study, enter your name and date of birth on the previous page and click the download button. At that point, a lottery system will randomly provide you with one of two types of divorce forms. Feel free to download the form and use it to file your divorce case. That's all you need to do! The Study team will use your name and date of birth to look you up in the court system to find out if you were able to file your case and whether you had any difficulty with the court process subsequent to filing.

Is there any way being in this study could be bad for me?

We do not believe there are any significant risks of participating in this study. Your participation in this study will not impact your divorce proceedings in any way. There is always some minimal risk of a breach of confidentiality when data like this is collected, but every effort is being made to keep your data confidential.

If I take part in this research, how will my privacy be protected?

Efforts will be made to limit the use and disclosure of your Personal Information, including court records, to people who have a need to review this information. We cannot promise complete secrecy. Organizations that may inspect and copy your information include the IRB and other representatives of this organization.

If identifiers are removed from your identifiable private information that are collected during this research, that information could be used for future research studies or distributed to another investigator for future research studies without your additional informed consent.

Who can I talk to if I have questions or if I change my mind about participating?

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, or think the research has hurt you, contact April Faith-Slaker at 617-998-1619 or afaithslaker@law.harvard.edu

This research has been reviewed and approved by the Harvard University Area Institutional Review Board ("IRB"). You may talk to them at (617) 496-2847 or cuhs@harvard.edu you have questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team.