

What can you expect?

- Legal professionals will aid you and the other party in developing a mutually agreed upon outcome.
- You will have access to legal materials; such as forms, legal reference materials, online legal research, etc.
- Your session will be in a courtroom at the McHenry County Government Center.
- The Self Represented Litigant Coordinator, members of the Self Help Center and Court Administration will be available to answer non-legal questions.
- If you and the other party are able to agree on the issues before the Court, a Judgment for Dissolution can be obtained more quickly.
- If you and the other party agree on all issues, your case could be resolved on the same day.
- This is an opportunity to work with the other party to resolve your case, without the need of additional hearings or a trial, where the judge determines the outcome.

While this program is offered by the Court as a means to assist self-represented litigants, the Court encourages parties to retain qualified attorneys.

TWENTY SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF ILLINOIS



COUNTY OF McHENRY WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS

Early Resolution Program for Divorce Cases Involving Self- Represented Litigants

2200 North Seminary Avenue, Suite 355
Woodstock, Illinois 60098

815-334-4166 Telephone

IF YOU HAVE RETAINED AN ATTORNEY FOR YOUR CASE, PLEASE DISREGARD THIS INFORMATION AND THE NOTICE YOU WERE SENT.

Your case has been selected for a special program because you are representing yourself in a divorce matter that has been filed with the Circuit Court of the 22nd Judicial Circuit for McHenry County.

Please make sure that you appear at the date, time and location contained on the correspondence you received.

Both parties must attend and do not bring children to the hearing.

What to bring to the hearing:

- Completed Self-Represented Litigants Financial Disclosure Form (included with the notice you received).
- Parties must pay a \$60.00 transcript fee to the court reporter at the time the judge grants your judgment of dissolution.

(Must be cash or money order)

What is the Early Resolution Program (ERP)?

The ERP session is unique, as the approach will be a “problem solving” model rather than the traditional adversarial approach.

The ERP Coordinator works with local legal aid centers and members of the local bar in order to seek attorneys willing to assist self-represented litigants to narrow issues and aid in the completion of paperwork during the ERP session. If parties are able to resolve outstanding issues, mutually agree on the outcome and complete the paperwork; the litigants return to the original courtroom where the judge can grant the judgment of dissolution.

If the parties fail to achieve a resolution during the ERP session, the case will be returned to the regular calendar for hearings and a trial date.

If you have questions, you can reach the ERP Coordinator at 815-334-4166.

Goals of the ERP

- Shorten the length of time from the date of filing to case disposition.
- Reduce costs due to lost wages for litigants to attend multiple court dates and hearings.
- Provide meaningful access to the judicial system.
- Reduce the number of case processing steps.
- Reduce the number of post case motions and hearings.
- Increase public trust and confidence in the judicial branch of government

Litigants will be provided the opportunity to return to another ERP hearing if both parties believe that such participation would be beneficial in resolving the case.

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