

Rule 17.200—Form 215: Answer to Petition for Dissolution of Marriage with Children

Respondent: You must file an Answer in the county where the Petition was filed within **20 days** after receiving the Petition and Original Notice, or the **court may enter a judgment against Respondent** giving Petitioner what he or she asked for in the Petition.

- Read the [Guide to Representing Yourself in an Iowa Divorce Case with Children](#) on the Iowa Judicial Branch website before using this form.
- Use this Answer form 215 if you received Petition form 201, otherwise use form 216.
-  *If filing electronically and you include protected information on this form, fill out or update the Protected Information Disclosure form (211) if you have not already done so.*
-  *If filing in paper, you may use form 211.*

If you do not understand how to use this form, or if you should use this form, talk to an attorney.

In the Iowa District Court for _____ County
County where your spouse filed the Petition

Upon the Petition of

Petitioner *Your spouse's full name: first, middle, last*

and concerning

Respondent *Your full name: first, middle, last*

Equity case no. _____

**Answer to Petition for Dissolution
of Marriage with Children**

1. Personal Information *Fill in all information that you know.*

A. Petitioner's information

Check one

If paragraph 1A of the Petition (form 201) is not correct, check (2) and fill in the blanks.

- (1) Petitioner's (your spouse's) birth year and present residence are correct in the Petition.
(2) Petitioner's birth year and present residence are not correct in the Petition.

The correct information is: _____
Birth year

Present street address _____
City _____
State _____
ZIP code

County (_____) _____
Phone number _____
Email address

B. Respondent's information

Check one

If paragraph 1B of the Petition (form 201) is not correct, check (2) and fill in the blanks.

- (1) Respondent's (your) birth year and present residence are correct in the Petition.
(2) Respondent's birth year and present residence are not correct in the Petition.

The correct information is: _____
Birth year

C. Identification of children

Check one

If paragraph 2C of the Petition (201) is not correct, check (2) and provide the correct information about the children's identification.

- (1) The children are identified correctly in the Petition.
- (2) The children are not correctly identified in the Petition. The correct information is:

First, middle, & last initials of each child	Birth year
a.	
b.	
c.	

First, middle, & last initials of each child	Birth year
d.	
e.	
f.	

Check this box if you have attached a separate sheet listing additional children.

D. Children's living arrangements

Check one

If paragraph 2D of the Petition (201) is not correct, check b and provide the correct information about the children's residence.

- a. The information about where the children have lived is listed correctly in the Petition.
- b. The information about where the children have lived is not listed correctly.
The correct information is: *List children by initials only*

i. Children: _____
Initials Initials Initials Initials Initials

Lived with _____ from ____/____/____ to ____/____/____
Adult name mm dd yyyy mm dd yyyy

At _____
City State

ii. Children: _____
Initials Initials Initials Initials Initials

Lived with _____ from ____/____/____ to ____/____/____
Adult name mm dd yyyy mm dd yyyy

At _____
City State

iii. Children: _____
Initials Initials Initials Initials Initials

Lived with _____ from ____/____/____ to ____/____/____
Adult name mm dd yyyy mm dd yyyy

At _____
City State

iv. Children: _____
Initials Initials Initials Initials Initials

Lived with _____ from ____/____/____ to ____/____/____
Adult name mm dd yyyy mm dd yyyy

At _____
City State

v. Children: _____
Initials Initials Initials Initials Initials

Lived with _____ from ____/____/____ to ____/____/____
Adult name mm dd yyyy mm dd yyyy

At _____
City State

Check this box if you have attached a separate sheet listing additional children.

If the children have been in Iowa for less than six months, the court may not be able to issue an order about custody or visitation. The rules are complicated, and you may need to talk to an attorney.

E. Petitioner's residence

(1) The **only** reason that Petitioner (your spouse) is living in Iowa is just to get a divorce.

True

False *If Petitioner does not live in Iowa, or if Petitioner lives in Iowa for reasons other than just to get a divorce, check "False."*

(2) *If you disagree with paragraph 2E(2) of the Petition (201), fill in the blanks.*

Petitioner has lived in Iowa for the last _____ years and _____ months

In _____ county.

F. Parties' residence

Check each that is true

(1) Petitioner (your spouse) has lived in Iowa for more than one year.

If you did not check (1) or (2), you should talk to an attorney.

(2) Respondent (you are Respondent) is a resident of Iowa.

G. Condition of the marriage

Check all that are true

(1) The marriage is broken and cannot be saved.

(2) This is the only divorce case going on in involving this marriage.

If you did not check (2), explain in 4. You should also talk to an attorney.

(3) Petitioner did not file the Petition in good faith for the purpose of ending the marriage.

(4) Counseling will not save the marriage. *If counseling may save the marriage, do not check (4).*

H. Respondent's status

Check each that is true

(1) Respondent (you are Respondent) is in the military service.

There are special rules that may prevent this dissolution from going forward if you are in the military. You should talk to an attorney.

(2) Respondent is in prison or jail at _____ in _____.
Name of facility State

If you are in prison or jail, you may be entitled to a “guardian ad litem,” a person, usually an attorney, appointed to protect the interests of a spouse in some cases.

I. Protective or no contact orders

Check one

(1) There is neither a “protective order” nor a “no contact order” between Respondent (you) and Petitioner (your spouse).

(2) There is a “protective order” or “no contact order” between Respondent and Petitioner.

If you check (2), fill in the following information:

a. County and state where the order came from: _____
County State

b. Court case number: _____

3. Other Cases About the Children

Check A or B

A. All of the information in 3 in the Petition about other cases about the children is correct.

If you check A, skip to 4.

B. Some or all of the information in 3 in the Petition about other cases about the children is not correct. The correct information is:

If you check B, fill in the correct information below.

(1) Juvenile court

Check a or b.

a. There is no juvenile court case.

b. There is a juvenile court case. The correct information is:

If you check b, fill in the following information:

i. County and state of the juvenile court case: _____
County State

ii. Court case number: _____

Check one

(a) Concurrent jurisdiction has been granted.

(b) Concurrent jurisdiction has not been granted.

If the juvenile court has not given concurrent jurisdiction (permission), then child custody cannot be decided in this case. You should talk to an attorney.

(2) Custody order

Check a or b.

a. There is no custody order.

b. There is a custody order.

If you check b, fill in the following information:

i. County and state where the custody order came from: _____
County State

ii. Court case number: _____

(3) Child support order

Check a or b.

- a. There is no child support order.
- b. There is a child support order.

If you check b, fill in the following information:

- i. County and state where the child support order came from: _____
County State
- ii. Court case number: _____

4. Other Information

Respondent denies anything in the Petition that Respondent has not agreed is correct.

In addition, Respondent provides the following information: *All of the basic information you need to tell the court is on this form. Provide other information only if you need to explain something.*

5. Respondent's Request

A. Respondent asks the court to:

Check all that apply. The court will only consider items that are checked.

If you do not know what you want, talk to an attorney.

- (1) End the marriage of Respondent (you) and Petitioner (your spouse).
- (2) Decide custody and visitation.
- (3) Order child support and medical support.
- (4) Order payment of school or college tuition.
- (5) Fairly divide the property and the debts of the parties.
- (6) Order that Petitioner pay the court fees.
- (7) Order that Petitioner pay for Respondent's attorney's fees before the divorce is final
If you check (7), you must file form 222.
- (8) Order that Petitioner pay spousal support (alimony) to Respondent.
If you check (8), you must file form 222.
- (9) Change Respondent's last name to: _____
Name can only be changed to name on birth certificate or name used immediately prior to the marriage.
Print your former or birth name
- (10) Order counseling to save the marriage.
- (11) Other request: _____

6. Attorney Help

Check one

- A. An attorney did not help me prepare or fill in this paper.
B. An attorney helped me prepare or fill in this paper.

If you check B, you must fill in the following information:

Name of attorney or organization, if any Attorney's P.I.N. # – Ask the attorney

Business address of attorney or organization City State ZIP code

(_____) _____ (_____) _____ _____
Attorney's phone number Attorney's fax number – optional Attorney's email address – optional

7. Service Instructions

If Respondent is filing in paper

Check one

- A. Respondent will accept service of documents at the attorney's address listed above; or
B. Respondent will accept service of documents in this case at the mailing address below.

8. Certification of Service by Mailing or Delivery

Section 8 to be completed only if filing in paper or if the other party is exempt from electronic filing.
This document, if filed electronically, will automatically be served on registered parties.

I, _____, certify that on _____, 20____
Print your name Month Day Year

I mailed or gave a copy of this Answer to the other party or the other party's attorney at this address:

Name of person to whom I delivered or mailed it

Party's or attorney's mailing address City State ZIP code

Continued on next page

9. Oath and Signature

I, _____, have read this Answer, and I certify under penalty
Print your name
of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the State of Iowa that the information I have provided
in this Answer is true and correct.

_____, 20_____
*Signed on: Month Day Year Your signature**

Mailing address City State ZIP code

(_____) _____
Phone number Email address Additional email address – if available

* *Whether filing electronically or in paper, you must handwrite your signature on this form. If you are filing electronically, scan the form after signing it and then file electronically*

Important Instructions for filing this form on next page.

Do not file these instructions

Instructions for Filing an Answer to a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage with Children

The Iowa Judicial Branch is converting the court system to electronic filing county by county. The electronic filing system is also known as EDMS. To determine if this case is in a county using electronic filing, [check the map](#) available on the Iowa Judicial Branch website under eFiling, or call the clerk of court office in your county. If your county accepts electronic filing, **you must file electronically** unless you get permission from the court to file in paper. Contact the clerk of court in your county if you are unable to file electronically.

Filing your Answer electronically

- If your divorce case was filed in a county that uses electronic filing, you must register to electronically file. For help with registration, see the eFiler's User Guide [How to Register Pro Se \(Self Represented\) for eFiling](#) on the Iowa Judicial Branch website.
- Scan the signed Answer form and save it as a .pdf. (Save it in a place that will be accessible to you when you electronically file.)
- Log in to EDMS on the Iowa Judicial Branch website and file your Answer. The login page can be accessed from two different paths: you may [directly log in to EDMS](#); or from the judicial branch website menu, you may select "eFiling > eFile (EDMS) Login."
- For help, see [How to eFile to an Existing Case](#).
- You will receive a Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF) when the clerk of court has approved the eFiling of your Answer and other documents. You can then open the Answer and print a copy for your records.
- If there was a problem with your filing, EDMS will send you a Retraction Notice. You can then log in to My Filings, correct the error, and resubmit your Answer. For help, see [How to Resubmit a Returned Filing](#).
- The NEF will indicate if your spouse is exempt from electronic filing requirements, in which case, you must mail or serve in paper a copy of the document on your spouse if he or she does not have an attorney.

Filing your Answer in paper

- Make two photocopies of the original.
- Take your original Answer form and the photocopies to the clerk of court's office in the county where the Petition was filed. The county is listed at the top of the Petition (form 201).
- The clerk will time-stamp your forms and copies.
- The clerk will take the original and give the copies back to you.
- Keep one of the copies for your records.
- Serve one of the copies of your Answer on your spouse (Petitioner).
- You can hand one of the copies of the Answer form to your spouse, **or** mail a copy to your spouse at the address shown on the Petition.
- If your spouse has an attorney, you should serve the Answer by mailing a copy to the attorney at the attorney's address on the Petition if box 7A on the Petition is checked.

Do not file these instructions