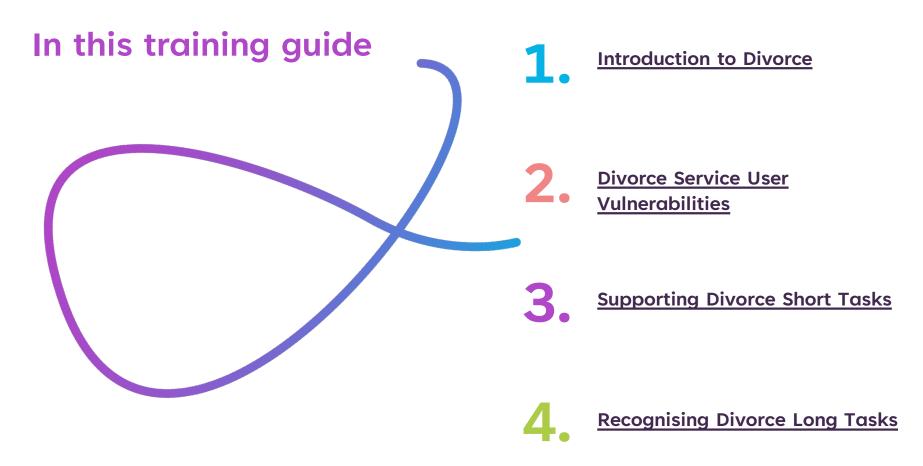
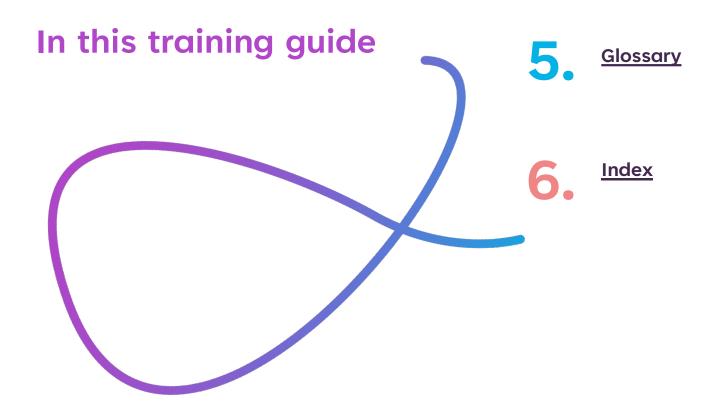




Divorce Agent Training

Divorce Multiple Touchpoint Service - Contact Centre Agent Training Guide





Introduction to Divorce

What you need to know



What is the divorce process?

Definition of divorce

Divorce is the legal process of

ending a marriage.



If a person wants to legally end their marriage, they must apply for a divorce.

You don't need to give a reason to get a divorce - this is sometimes called 'no fault' divorce.

Couples can only get a divorce after they've been married for at least 1 year. In general, if it's been under 1 year, they have the option to legally "separate" from their spouse and then apply to divorce once a year has passed.

The types of application We Are Digital do not currently support are:

- ending a civil partnership (there is both an online form and paper form option for a "dissolution")
- marriage separation (this is a paper form)



Joint and Sole Applications

The key differences



Married couples only need to make one application between them. They can send an application from:

- both of them together called a joint application
- just one spouse called a sole application

In a joint application, if one person stops responding, the

other can continue with an application as a sole applicant.

In a joint application, where help to pay fees is needed, both parties have to apply for "Help With Fees".

If one spouse does not apply, or isn't eligible, then the other will either have to pay the full fee or switch to a sole application to get the support.



Fee Changes April 2025



Changes to fees which will come into force on 08 April 2025 – increasing from £593 to £612

What does this mean for you?

- If a valid process is received before 08 April 2025 in a fit state to issue, then the old fee will apply
 even if it is actioned after the fee increase.
- A lot of payments are taken by the digital end to end processing. This reduces the occurrence of having collected the incorrect fee amount and thereby a need for refunds.
- Any process date stamped as received on or after 00:00 hours 08 April 2025 will be dealt with under the new fee order.
- Any process received prior to the new fee order but returned because there was an error and then subsequently resubmitted <u>after</u> 08 April 2025, will attract the new fee.



Divorce
Service User
Vulnerabilities

And how to respond



Life-changing and stressful

Users are often mourning the loss of their relationship and reassessing their lives and futures. Even amicable divorces are likely to involve **negotiating childcare**, **home ownership**, **or finances**. This can be an extremely difficult and emotionally charged situation and it is likely to manifest in different ways for different people. It is a time of loss, stress, change and adjustment.

Users may begin the process feeling **angry, upset, stressed and overwhelmed** if their experience has already been negative. An example of a person at particular risk would be if their spouse has been aggressive or controlling. In these instances, help is available (see signposting information in the Service Overview Training Guide). Remind any user who seems under pressure from their spouse, that they don't have to agree to anything important about finances or the children without getting legal advice first, or if they cannot afford that, direct them to Advicenow's free legal information on divorce, finances and child arrangements.



Finances

The application for divorce itself has a cost, and solicitors can cost hundreds, or thousands, of pounds depending on the complexity of the situation.

This can be worrying for anyone, but if a user has existing **money worries**, then getting a divorce will add to them. Working out how to create two new households from one will add financial pressures for both the user and their spouse.

The divorce service doesn't help users sort out their finances or automatically end all financial ties and responsibilities to their spouse. Users may benefit from seeking legal advice on this, or from reviewing <u>Advicenow's free legal information</u>.



Conflict

If a user's spouse disagrees on money or childcare issues, they will need to try mediation and may have to go to court for the judge to decide for them, if they cannot negotiate between themselves.

Going to court can be daunting for many people and it can get very expensive and hostile. This could result in users presenting with low confidence, anxiety or low mood.



Domestic Abuse

Many relationships that are unhappy feature an imbalance of power between the couple. This can amount to domestic abuse. It is often hard for the person in the relationship to see that it is abusive. There are many different forms of domestic abuse, from emotional, to physical, to financial.

If you have concerns about anything a user tells you which suggests that they are in an abusive situation, then you need to **raise a safeguarding concern** through your normal processes.

If a user is clearly in a domestic violence situation, then it would also be helpful to flag the possibility of <u>legal aid</u> to them if they are on a low income.



Delays

Users are likely to want to finalise their divorce as quickly as possible, so are more likely to show **impatience** or concern if there are delays, or if they perceive that something has prevented their case from progressing unnecessarily. The length of time it takes is likely to increase any stress already felt due to the relationship breakdown.

Divorce proceedings now take around 7 months, even if circumstances are straightforward.



Frustration

We know that users seeking support through We Are Group may struggle with different parts of the online journey, and it may be helpful for some users to know why it is a good option for them to use it, as there are some key benefits of using 'Apply for a divorce' online:

- It has been designed for people applying for a divorce themselves, rather than for lawyers.
- The online service will be **faster** for the user **than the paper service**.
- At regular intervals, users can click on a link called 'Contact us for more help' which takes them to **webchat and helpline** details.
- The user can log on at any time to **check the progress of their case** and **find related information** via GOV.UK pages.



How to respond

Make sure you

- Are patient
- Listen carefully
- Show compassion
- Recognise distress
- Refer and signpost appropriately

Tips

- It's normal for people to feel sad, angry, exhausted and confused when they are getting divorced, and these feelings can be intense. They also may be anxious about the future. These feelings may affect how users interact with you.
- We can't give users suggestions on what they should do, but we can explain and give information of options so they can make an informed choice.
- Remember that CTSC may be the right place for some enquiries.

Preparing users for booked appointments

What to remember

If you are booking a user on for an appointment with a network partner, remind the user of what they may need for the supported session.

This will vary depending on the service and the help needed, but it could include:

- Identification
- Documents, such as a marriage certificate and/or translation
- Paperwork about their finances for Help with Fees application
- Debit or Credit card to pay the court fee.





Supporting Divorce Short Tasks

When you can offer direct support





Joint and Sole Applications How to use the Guidance Pack

Joint

This icon indicates when the guidance is relevant only to joint applicants.

Sole

This icon indicates when the guidance is relevant only to sole applicants.

Both

This icon indicates when the guidance is relevant to both joint and sole applicants.





Joint

Sole

The **short tasks for joint and sole applications are very similar** in terms of the names of the tasks, and the majority of next steps are very similar too.

Because however there are some **differences in the wording** of the email notifications and the updates on the portal, and because **the action required is sometimes different** too, **the pack covers joint and sole short tasks separately.**

This is to avoid any confusion, and to make it easier for agents to follow the correct guidance.



Short Tasks – Quick Links

All Applications:

- Supporting Sign In
- Reading Notifications
- <u>Viewing Documents</u>
- Resetting Passwords



Joint

Joint Applications:

- Confirm Receipt of Notice of Proceedings
- Apply for a Conditional Order
- No response
- Conditional Order Application Accepted
- View Conditional Order

- Apply for a Final
 Order
- <u>Final Order</u> <u>Granted</u>
- Switch to SoleApplication

Short Tasks – Quick Links

Sole

Sole Applications:

- Notice of Proceedings (Issued)
- Apply for a Conditional Order
- No Response
- Respondent Rejected
- Conditional Order Applied
 For

- Conditional Order
 Application Accepted
- <u>View Conditional Order</u>
- Apply for Final Order
- <u>Conditional Order Granted</u> (<u>Respondent</u>)
- Apply for Final Order (3 months no response)

- <u>Final Order Applied for</u> (Respondent)
- <u>Final Order Granted</u> (Respondent)

Supporting Sign In

Both

How to help users to sign in to the online portal.

Supporting Sign In

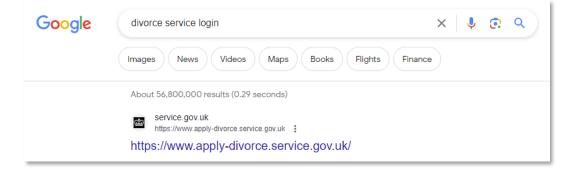




If a user doesn't know where to go to sign into the service, or if they are wary of clicking links in emails, you can direct them to type the words

"divorce service login"

into a search engine, this should generate the link to click as shown:





Supporting Sign In





All users, including applicants, respondents, joint applicants and sole applicants will see the same sign in screen.

Email and password are the sole credentials with which users can sign in to the portal for divorce.

Other services may allow users to sign in with a claim number for example, but there is no identifying number or code associated with a divorce application.

dia GOV.UK		
BETA This is a new service – your <u>feedback</u> will help us to improve it.		
Sign in or create an account		
Signin	Create an account	
Email address	You need to <u>create an account</u> to use this service.	
Password		
Forgotten password?		
Sign in		



Both

Supporting users to view notifications and determine their next steps





Notifications are normally updates telling a claimant about progress on their divorce. These often require the claimant to take additional action on their portal.

In most cases these are small tasks, such as confirming receipt of something or viewing or downloading a document.

In other cases, a user should be booked for support at a centre **if the notification prompts them** to take additional action on the portal, such as the one shown here:

Case number: 10736745834

Dear Jo Bloggs

You can now apply for a 'final order'. This is a court document that will legally end your [marriage. / civil partnership.]

Sign in to your HMCTS account and apply for a 'final order': [sign in link]

Divorce Service

HM Courts & Tribunals Service

0300 303 0642 (Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm, Saturday 8am to

2pm)

Email: contactdivorce@justice.gov.uk

This is an automated message, please do not reply to this email.







Notifications that **do not** require further action include:

- Receipt of notice of proceedings
- Acceptance of a 'conditional order' application (shown here)
- Pronouncement of a 'conditional order'

Note:

If the user is struggling to navigate the portal with your support over the phone and may need more in-depth support, you can offer an appointment with a network partner.

⊞ GOV.UK

Case number: 107643456

Dear Jo Bloggs,

Your application for a 'conditional order' has been accepted. The court agrees that you are entitled to [get divorced. / end your civil partnership.]

What happens next

A judge will 'pronounce' (read out) your conditional order at a hearing. The hearing will take place at [court name] on [date of hearing] at [time of hearing].

You do not need to come to the hearing, unless you want to object. You must contact the court by [date + x days] if you want to attend.

[Your [husband / wife / civil partner] has also been sent this notification.]

Divorce Service







As just shown, **users will be sent an email** when something has happened in relation to their application, they can find out more about this by clicking the link to access the **online portal**.

Sometimes, early in the process, the other party will have acted and there is an update for the user to read before they are prompted to fill in another form.

That other form would be a long task, but **reading** the update first would be a short task.

Viewing these updates is normally straightforward once the user is signed into the portal.

Some notifications may require signposting to CTSC for **specific guidance or technical support**, e.g., if there is a technical issue with the application



Viewing Documents

Both

Supporting users to view documents in the portal

Viewing Documents

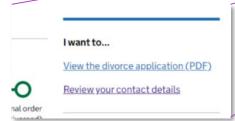


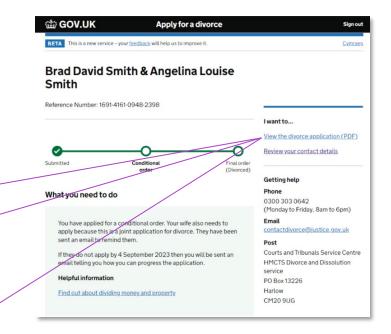


Viewing documents is usually straightforward once the user is signed into the portal.

All of the user's previously submitted documents, as well as the documents submitted by the other party, will be available to view within the portal.

The option to view the document will usually be described in blue underlined text.







Resetting Passwords

Both

Supporting users to reset their password to gain access to the portal

Resetting Passwords

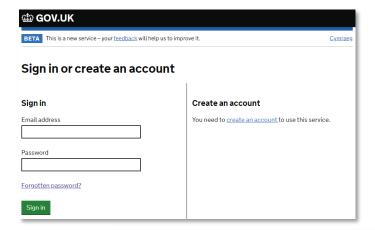




If a user has forgotten their password and needs to reset it, there are some simple steps they can take.

The guidance for this is contained in the "Password Reset Flow" document, and in the addendum at the end of the Service Overview Training Guide.

You can access the Password Reset document **here**.



∰ GOV.UK	
BETA This is a new service – your <u>feedback</u> will help us to improve it.	Cymraeg
Reset your password	
Enter your email address to reset your password.	
Email address	
Submit	



Confirm Receipt of Notice of Proceedings

Joint

Supporting users to confirm that they have received their application for divorce by email.

Confirm Receipt of Notice of Proceedings





When a user receives this notification, it is because they have been sent a copy of their divorce application by email and they need to confirm that they have received it.



Case reference number:

Notice of proceedings

Dear Mike Dean

Your joint Divorce application has been checked by court staff and accepted. Your case reference number is: xxx. A separate email has been sent to your partner Jen confirming this.

What you need to do

You need to acknowledge receipt of this email, so the court knows you have received and read it. You do this by signing into your divorce account: https://hmcts-access.service.gov.uk/loguth2/callback

What happens next

The next step in the Divorce is to confirm that you want the application to continue by applying for a 'conditional order'. You have to wait until 10 October 2023 until you can apply. You will receive an email to remind you then.

You can use the time between now and then to decide how the money and property is divided. You can also make arrangements for children, if you have them. Dividing money and property is dealt with separately to the divorce.



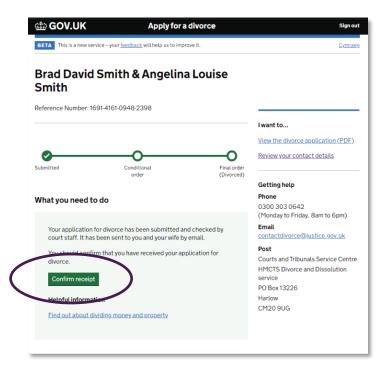
Confirm Receipt of Notice of Proceedings





This is a simple one-step process where they are required to press "Confirm receipt".

You should **check that the user has been able to open and read the email with their application in it and is happy to continue** before they press the green button.





Confirm Receipt of Notice of Proceedings

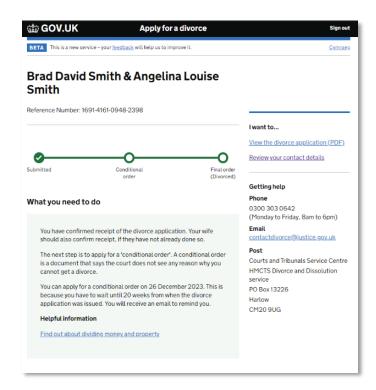




They will then be shown a confirmation screen, which tells them that there will now be a **20 week wait** before they can apply for a "conditional order".

They will be sent an email reminder by HMCTS closer to the time to alert them that they will be able to make the next application.

They do not have to take any further action at this stage, however there is some useful guidance we can also provide (continued)..





Confirm Receipt of Notice of Proceedings





Whilst the legal process is underway, it is important the user understands that they also need to start thinking about how to reach an agreement with their spouse on the division of any property, other capital like savings, pensions, and debts and income or maintenance, now. This is not an automatic part of the divorce process.

For some it may feel too soon, but the process is a slow one and it takes time to gather all the necessary documentation to enable productive conversations with their spouse, or via mediation or solicitors.

If the user can afford it, getting early legal advice is invaluable. A useful starting place to signpost users to is Advicenow's "A survival guide to sorting out finances when you get divorced".

They can search the keywords "advicenow sort finance divorce" for the link above in the search results.



Confirm Receipt of Notice of Proceedings





It is important to flag to the user that a final divorce order does not, by itself, legally end the separated couple's financial ties.

A separate agreement not to make claims against each other in the future would be what they would need in order to do this.

Even users with very little in the way of things of value, or 'assets', should understand that it is still important to consider getting such an agreement. To be legally binding it must be approved by the court and made into an order – known as a 'consent order'.

If there is any suggestion that the user is in a disadvantaged position or being controlled by their spouse, then they need to be reminded of the importance of getting legal advice before agreeing anything important in relation to finances.



Joint

After waiting 20 weeks, the user can be supported to apply for a conditional order

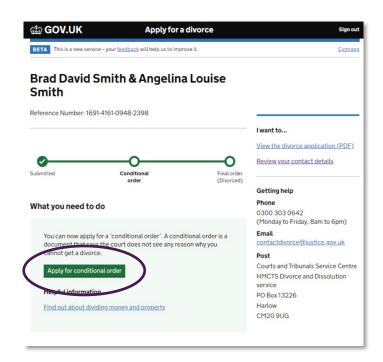




When a user receives this notification, it is because 20 weeks have passed since they submitted their initial application to divorce.

Now they can move on to the next stage in the divorce process and "Apply for a conditional order".

You can walk the user through the next few screens. Remember that if they need additional help at any point, you can offer an appointment with a network partner.



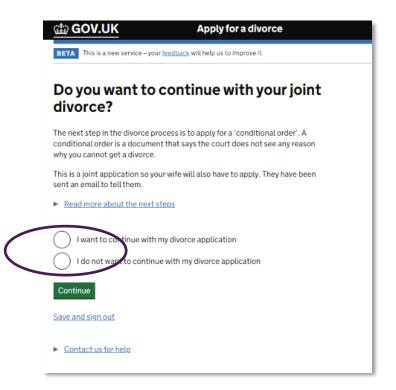






The user needs to choose whether to continue with the divorce process or not.

Check that the user is satisfied that they understand the process and that they wish to continue before they select an option and press the green button.









If they choose **not to continue** with their divorce application at this point, they will automatically be asked to fill out a paper form. Their spouse will need to fill in the same form too.

This form is available to print online, or the user can call CTSC to request one.

If the user doesn't think their spouse still wants to apply together for a divorce, the user will need to change to a sole application. The user needs to continue to apply jointly and wait for two weeks before requesting to change.



post it are on the form. Your application will be lodged as soon as the form

is received by the court but it could take up to three weeks to process the application. If you want to choose this option then you should exit the

service.

► Contact us for help



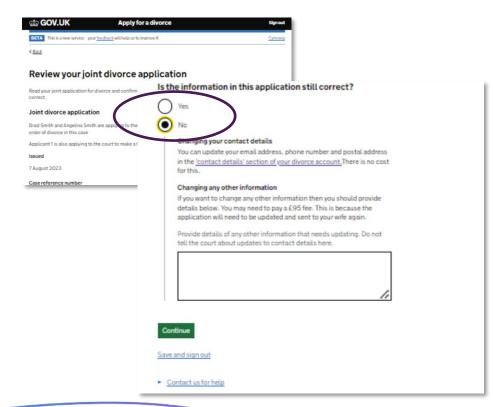




If they choose **to continue** with their divorce application at this point, they will be asked to review the application and statements made.

They need to check that everything is correct. Contact details can be updated for free in the portal at any time.

If they need to change information **other than their contact details,** then they will need to detail the change in the text box and pay a fee of £95. To do so they would need to contact CTSC.





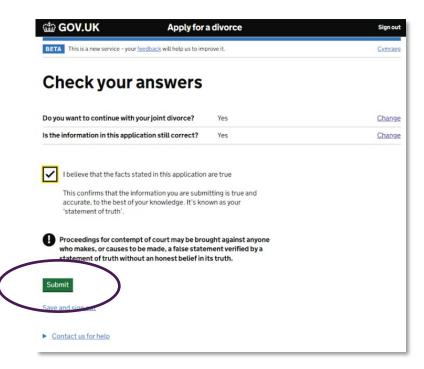




The next screen asks the user to confirm their previous answers.

It is important to explain to the user that by ticking this box they are making a statement of truth to the court. This means they are saying all the details given are true and accurate as far as they know. Remind them that if they make a false statement of truth, they can be found guilty of 'contempt of court'. The punishment for this offence can be a fine, or time in prison, or both.

Check that the user is happy to proceed before they press "Submit". This is a legal statement and therefore should be taken seriously.









The final screen informs the user that their application for a conditional order has been made.

The user will be sent confirmation of this by email.

If they are the first in their couple to apply, their spouse is now required to complete the same process online and is sent an email reminder to do so.

If they have both now completed the application, their application will be checked and sent to a

What you need to do

You have applied for a conditional order. Your wife also needs to apply because this is a joint application for divorce. They have been sent an email to remind them.

If they do not apply by 4 September 2023 then you will be sent an email telling you how you can progress the application.

Helpful information

Find out about dividing money and property

What you need to do

You and your husband have applied for a 'conditional order'.

The court will check your application and send it to a judge. If the judge agrees that you should get a divorce, then they will grant your entitlement to a conditional order and then 'pronounce' it in court. You will receive an email by 4 September 2023 after your application has been checked. This will have the time, date and court your conditional order will be pronounced.

Helpful information

Find out about dividing money and property



No Response

Joint

Supporting users to understand what to do if their spouse does not respond to the application

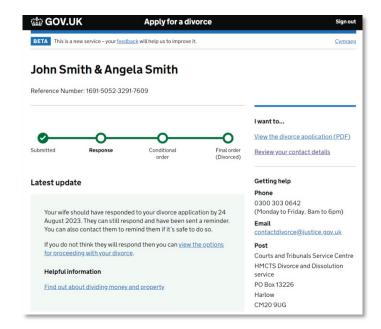
No Response





When a user receives this notification, it is because their spouse hasn't replied to their application for divorce.

It is not their spouse's final chance to respond, so the user can wait if they think their spouse will pick it up. They can also contact them if they wish, to remind them directly. A reminder will also have been sent by HMCTS.





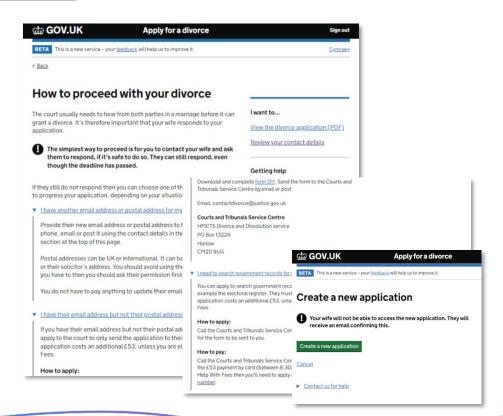
No response





If the user doesn't think their spouse will respond and doesn't want to wait, have the option to switch to a sole application.

A partner booking should be made to create a new application, see the 'Switch to Sole Application' guidance.





Conditional Order Application Accepted

Joint

This notification is generated when the user's application has progressed to the next stage

Conditional Order Application Accepted





When a user receives this notification, it is because their application for a "conditional order" has been accepted.

If they wish to, they can attend court to object to the order. This would be unusual but is possible. They must inform the court of their intention; the notification should contain the court's contact details.

In most cases, users will not object or attend court and will simply wait for confirmation that their "conditional order" has been granted.





View Conditional Order

Joint

Supporting users to view and download their conditional order

View Conditional Order



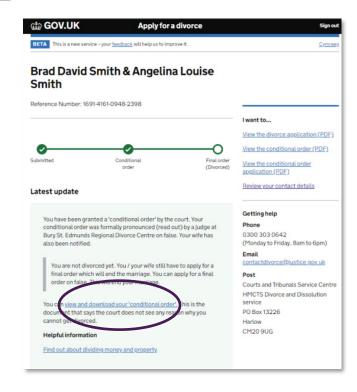


When a user receives this notification, it is because their "conditional order" has been granted.

If they wish to, they can view and download the order through the portal.

They can do this by clicking on the <u>blue underlined</u> text as shown.

The user will now need to wait a further 6 weeks and 1 day before they can apply for the "final order".





View Conditional Order





Remind the user that they need to be thinking about how to agree their finances if they haven't already started this part of the process. If they have tried, but cannot agree things between themselves, then this is the first point in the process when they can apply to the court for the Judge's help.

A good place to start when making these decisions is Advicenow's webpages on divorce and finances.

If there in any suggestion of the user being pressurised or controlled by their spouse, do remind them that it is very important to get legal advice about their position before agreeing finances or arrangements for children.



Joint

Supporting users to apply for a final order, the last stage in the divorce process





When a user receives this notification, it is because 6 weeks and a day have passed since they were granted a conditional order.

The user now has up to a year to apply for a "final order" to legally end their marriage.

If they are ready to do so, you can support them to make the application now. It is the last step in the divorce process, so **check that they understand what this means and are happy to continue** before proceeding.

Case number: 10736745834

Dear Jo Bloggs

You can now apply for a 'final order'. This is a court document that will legally end your [marriage. / civil partnership.]

Sign in to your HMCTS account and apply for a 'final order': [sign in link]

Divorce Service

HM Courts & Tribunals Service

 $0300\ 303\ 0642$ (Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm, Saturday 8am to 2pm)

Email: contactdivorce@justice.gov.uk

This is an automated message, please do not reply to this email.







A person's legal situation changes once the final order is made. It is near impossible to stop it from being made once the application has gone to the court, so **the user must understand the consequences for their legal rights**.

If the separated couple have not yet resolved their finances, there are good reasons to do that before applying for the final order.

This is because the final divorce or dissolution order affects their legal rights, for example:

- · rights in relation to the family home
- rights in relation to pensions
- the right to bring a claim for a financial order in relation to the marriage if the other person dies after the final order is made, but before finances are agreed and approved by the court







If the user is unsure about how this could affect them, suggest they try and get legal advice before making this decision.

If it appears that the user is being pressurised into an agreement that they aren't happy with, remind them that they should get legal advice.

If the user decides to delay their application to finalise the finances, make sure you explain that the respondent is allowed to apply for the final order themselves, three months after the first date the user can apply.

Also, if there is a long delay in applying (a year more more), they will need to explain to the court the reasons for this.

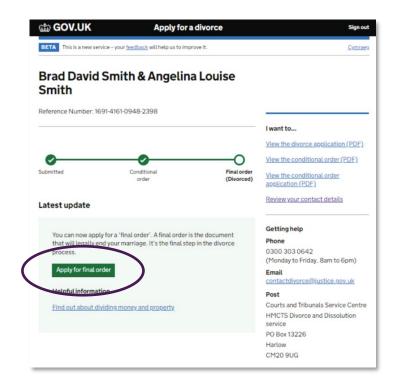






Clicking the "Apply for final order" button will take the user to a final screen which sets out their options and provides guidance (see below)







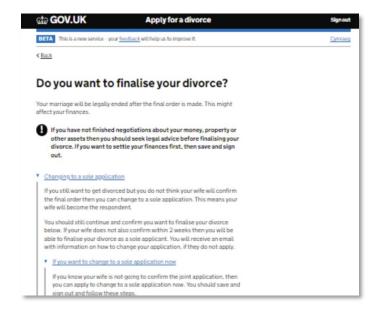




This is a significant decision, as it will legally end their marriage, so it is vital that the user reads and understands this, and the rest of the information on the page, before continuing.

Once the final order is made it cannot be un-made.

The user and their spouse will no longer be husband and wife, and this changes their rights to the family home, rights to spousal benefits in pension plans and potential rights if their ex-spouse dies after the final order is made but before finances are agreed and approved by the court.









If at any time they decide they need to stop and seek advice or consider their options before they submit, then they can click the blue underlined "Save and sign out" text.

If they decide to continue and to complete the process, they are asked to **tick the box** to confirm they want to take the final step and finalise the divorce, then they are required to press "Submit".

following documents and evidence to the court:

• The application for a final order (as a sole applicant)

• The 'certificate of service' which proves that you have given notice to your wife that you are intending to apply for a final order as a sole applicant.

You can either post or email the documents and evidence to the court. Details of where to send them are on any correspondence you have received from the court.

I want to finalise my divorce jointly with my wife

Submit

Save and sign out





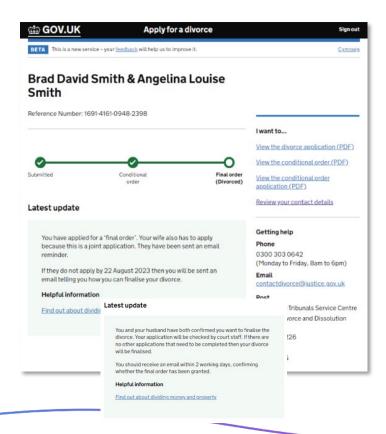


The final screen informs the user that their application for a final order has been made.

The user will be sent confirmation of this by email.

If they are the first in their couple to apply, their spouse is now required to complete the same process online and is sent an email reminder to do so.

If they have both now completed the application, their application will be checked and finalised.





Final Order Granted

Joint

Supporting users to view and download their final order

Final Order Granted



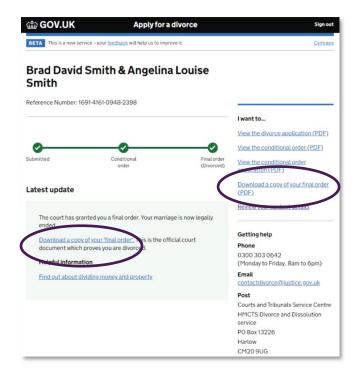


When a user receives this notification, it is because their "final order" has been granted.

If they wish to, they can view and download the order through the portal.

They can do this by clicking on the <u>blue underlined</u> text as shown.

This is the last stage in the joint applicant divorce process. The couple are now legally divorced and the marriage has formally ended.





Final Order Granted





If the user requests help at this stage as they haven't sorted out their finances, signpost them to Advicenow's "A survival guide to sorting out your finances when you get divorced" or "How to apply for a financial order without a lawyer", depending on if they are still trying to agree, or if they can't reach an agreement and need to apply to court.

If the user hasn't already updated their Will since their separation, inform them that divorce affects a Will, so that it is as though their ex-husband/wife died on the date the final order is made.

They can find more details on this in Advicenow's "How to get a divorce or dissolution of a civil partnership without a lawyer" article.



Switch to Sole Application

Joint

Supporting the user to switch from a joint to a sole application

Switch to Sole Application





If the user wishes to change to a sole application and 2 weeks have passed since their spouse was notified either of the requirement to apply for a conditional order or a final order, then the user is able to request to switch.

If they wish to do so, the appropriate action would be to **book a partner appointment** as this will entail completing the form again.



Dear Mike Dean

Your partner has still not applied for a conditional order. They have to apply before your divorce can progress. This is because you are doing a joint application.

What you can do

The quickest way to progress your application is for your partner to apply for the conditional order. They have been emailed details of how to do this. You should contact them to remind them, if it's safe to do so.

If you do not think they will apply then you can change your application to a sole application. This will mean your partner becomes the respondent. You can change your application by signing into your HMCTS account: https://hmcts-access.service.gov.uk/login?client_id=divorce&response_type=code&redirect_uri=https://www.apply-divorce.service.gov.uk/loguth2/callback

Divorce and Dissolution
HM Courts & Tribunals Service
divorcecase@justice.gov.uk
0300 303 0642 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)



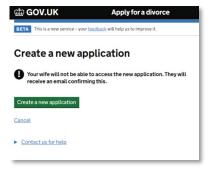
Switch to Sole Application

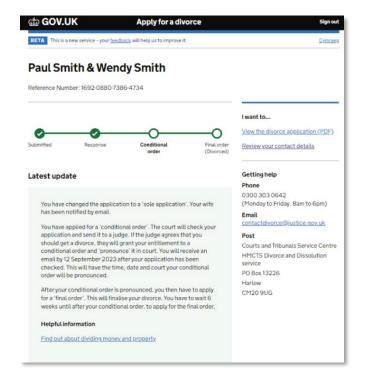




The final screen will confirm that the application has been changed and that the user's spouse will be notified via email.

They will now be asked to begin the application process again from the start.







Notice of Proceedings (Divorce Issued)

Sole

Supporting users to view and understand the notification

Notice of Proceedings





When a user receives this notification, it is because they have previously submitted an application for divorce which has now been checked by court staff and sent to their spouse.

There is **no action** for the user to take beyond viewing the latest update, this is simply to tell them about the progress of their application.

Notice of proceedings

Case number: 1234567

Dear Mike Dean,

Your has been checked by court staff and accepted. Your case reference number is: 1234567.

What happens next

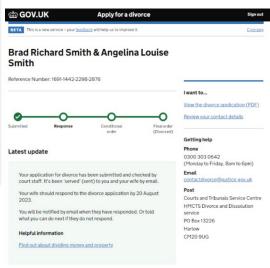
Your partner Jane Dean has been sent the. They need to read the application and respond by 30/10/2023. You do not need to do anything.

You will receive a notification when they have responded. If they do not respond then you will be told what you can do next to progress the application.

You can track the progress of your here: https://hmcts-access.service.gov.uk/login?

client_id=divorce&response_type=code&redirect_uri=https://www.applydivorce.service.gov.uk/oauth2/callback

The next step in the is to apply for a 'conditional order'. You have to wait until 18/03/2024 until you can apply. You will receive a notification with details of how you can apply.





Sole

After waiting 20 weeks, the user can be supported to apply for a conditional order

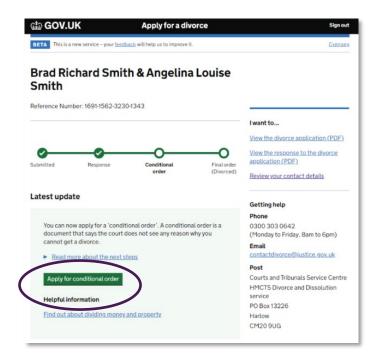




When a user receives this notification, it is because their spouse has responded to and accepted the divorce application, and because 20 weeks have passed since the application was then submitted.

Now the user can move on to the next stage in the divorce process and "Apply for a conditional order".

You can walk the user through the next few screens. Remember that they may need additional help at any point, which might necessitate a partner booking.





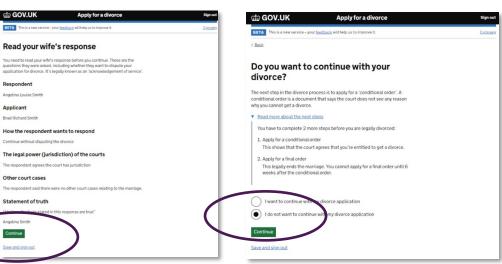




The user is asked to **read and review their spouse's response** to the application before they

confirm if they wish to continue.

Check that the user is satisfied that they understand the process and that they wish to continue before they select an option and press the green button.



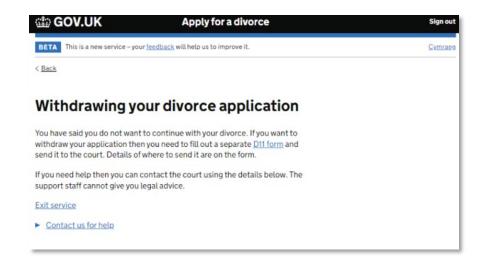






If they choose **not to continue** with their divorce application at this point, they will automatically be asked to fill out a paper form.

This form is available to print online, or the user can call CTSC to request one.





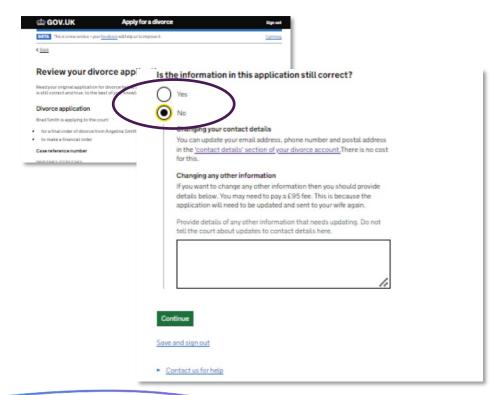




If they choose **to continue** with their divorce application at this point, they will be asked to review the application and statements made.

They need to check that everything is correct. Contact details can be updated for free in the portal at any time.

If they need to change information other than their contact details, then they will need to detail the change in the text box and pay a fee of £95. To do so they would need to contact CTSC.



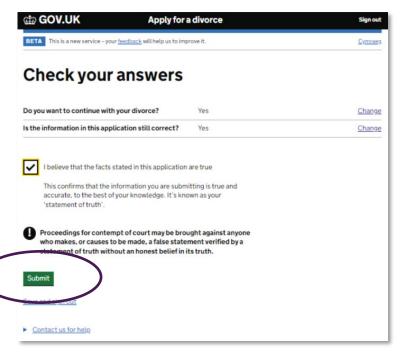






The next screen asks the user to confirm their previous answers. Check that the user is happy to proceed before they press "Submit".

This is a legal statement and therefore should be taken seriously.





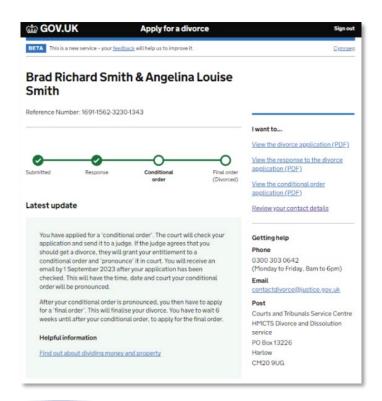




The final screen informs the user that their application for a conditional order has been made.

The user will be sent confirmation of this by email.

Their application will now be checked and sent to a judge.





No response

Sole

Supporting users to understand what to do if their spouse does not respond to the application

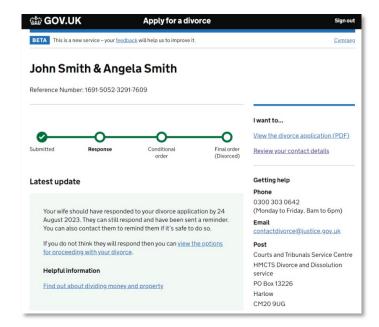
No Response





When a user receives this notification, it is because their spouse hasn't replied to their application for divorce.

It is not their spouse's final chance to respond, so the user can wait if they think their spouse will pick it up. They can also contact them if they wish, to remind them directly. A reminder will also have been sent by HMCTS.





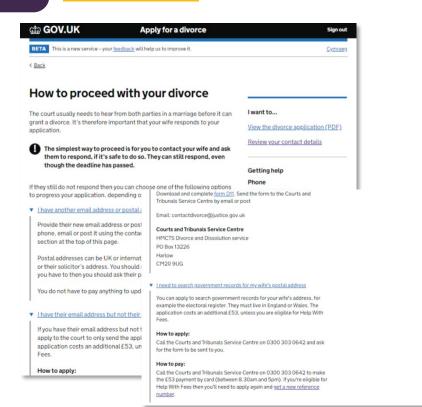
No response





If the user doesn't think their spouse will respond and doesn't want to wait, they have 3 options:

- To provide another email or postal address to the court
- To apply to the court to only send the application to their email address. They can contact CTSC to request a form be sent to them in the post. There is a fee of £53 for this, or they can apply for Help with fees.
- 3. If they have neither, they will need to apply to ask the court to search government records for their spouse's address. There is a fee of £53 for this application. They do this by contacting CTSC.





Respondent Rejected

Sole

Supporting users to understand what to do if their spouse disputes their application

Respondent Rejected

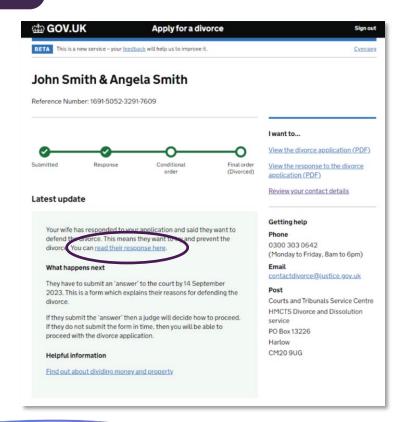




When a user receives this notification, it is because their spouse has said they do not wish to get divorced.

The user can read their spouse's response by clicking the <u>blue underlined text</u>. This isn't a full explanation, but a summary of the grounds for disputing the divorce.

21 days is then allowed for between the rejection and the deadline for the spouse to submit an 'answer' form to explain their reasons more fully.





Conditional Order Applied for

Sole

This notification is generated when the user's spouse has applied for the next stage of divorce

Conditional Order Applied for





When a user receives this notification, it is because **their spouse** has submitted an application for a conditional order. This is the next stage in the divorce process.

The user does not need to take any action, this notification is for **information purposes only**.

The user is able to view the details of the conditional order, and to attend the hearing if they wish.

They will also be informed of the next steps including the 6 weeks and 1 day wait for the final order.





Conditional Order Application Accepted

Sole

This notification is generated when the user's application has progressed to the next stage

Conditional Order Application Accepted





When a user receives this notification, it is because their application for a "conditional order" has been accepted.

If they wish to, they can attend court to object to the order. This would be unusual but is possible. They must inform the court of their intention; the notification should contain the court's contact details.

Users who do not object or wish attend court will simply wait for confirmation that their "conditional order" has been granted.



Find out about dividing money and property

Find out more about conditional orders
Find out more about final orders



View Conditional Order

Sole

Supporting users to view and download their conditional order

View Conditional Order



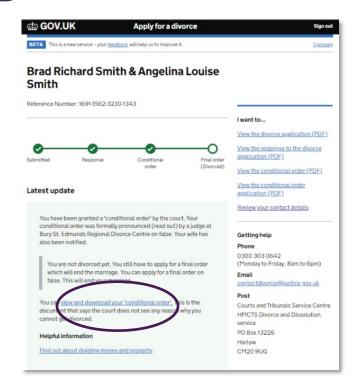


When a user receives this notification, it is because their "conditional order" has been granted, or "pronounced".

If they wish to, they can view and download the order through the portal.

They can do this by clicking on the <u>blue underlined</u> text as shown.

The user will now need to wait a further 6 weeks and 1 day before they can apply for the "final order".





Conditional Order Granted (Respondent)

Sole

Supporting the spouse of the applicant to view and download their conditional order

Conditional Order Granted (Respondent)



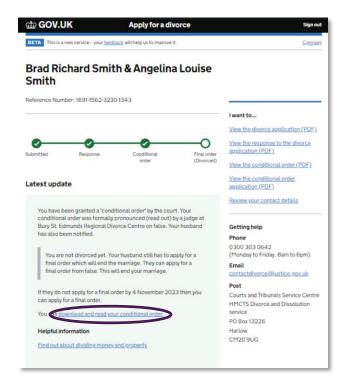


When a user receives this notification, it is because their spouse's "conditional order" has been granted.

If they wish to, they can download and read the order through the portal.

They can do this by clicking on the <u>blue underlined</u> text as shown.

The user will now need to wait for their spouse to apply for the "final order". If they do not do so within 3 months, then the user can apply instead.





Sole

Supporting users to apply for a final order, the last stage in the divorce process





When a user receives this notification, it is because 6 weeks and a day have passed since they were granted a conditional order.

The user now has up to a year to apply for a "final order" to legally end their marriage.

If they are ready to do so, you can support them to make the application now. It is the last step in the divorce process, so **check that they understand what this means and are happy to continue** before proceeding.

⊞ GOV.UK

Case number: 10736745834

Dear Jo Bloggs

You can now apply for a 'final order'. This is a court document that will legally end your [marriage. / civil partnership.]

Sign in to your HMCTS account and apply for a 'final order': [sign in link]

Divorce Service

HM Courts & Tribunals Service

0300 303 0642 (Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm, Saturday 8am to 2pm)

Email: contactdivorce@justice.gov.uk

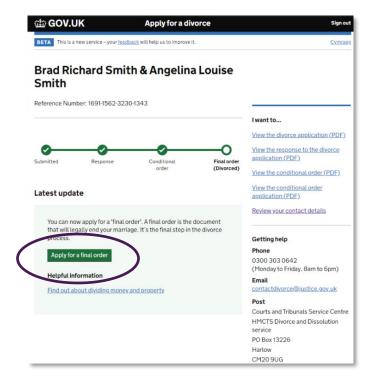
This is an automated message, please do not reply to this email.







Clicking the "Apply for final order" button will take the user to a final screen which sets out their options and provides guidance.





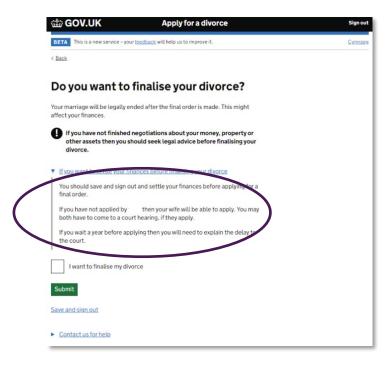




If the user doesn't apply for the final order within 3 months, then the user's spouse is entitled to do so, and they may both have to attend court.

If the user takes longer than a year to make the application, then they will need to provide an explanation.

∰ GOV.UK	Apply for a divorce	Signout
BETA This is a new service – your feedback will help us to improve it.		Cymraes
Back		
Explain the del	ay	
conditional order was made.	on for a final order over one year from when the Explain to the court why you did not apply for a r will be reviewed as part of your application.	
_		
I believe that the facts	stated in this application are true	
	ation you are submitting is true and accurate, to t's known as your 'statement of truth'.	
Continue		
Save and sign out		





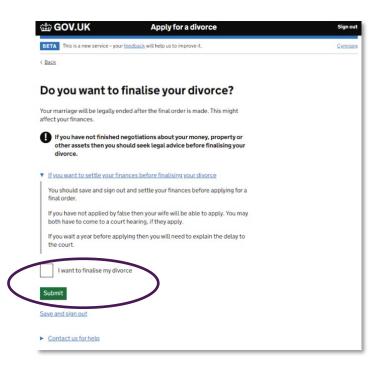




The user needs to read and understand the information on the page before continuing.

They are asked to **tick the box** to confirm they want to take the final step and finalise the divorce, then they are required to press "**Submit**".

If at any time they decide they need to stop and seek advice, or consider their options, before they submit then they can click the blue underlined "Save and sign out" text.







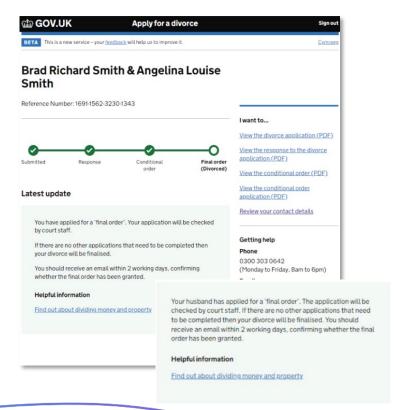


The final screen informs the user that their application for a final order has been made.

The user will be sent confirmation of this by email.

Their spouse will also be sent a notification to inform them that the application has been made.

Within 2 days both parties should be informed of the outcome.





Apply for a final order if no applicant response in 3 months

Sole

Supporting a user whose spouse (the original applicant) has stopped responding

Apply for a final order if no applicant response in 3 months





If the original applicant stops responding to the divorce application process once the conditional order has been granted, and 3 months has passed, then the user is entitled to apply for the final order instead.

They can now sign in to their account and follow the same process their spouse would have done, to go about finalising the divorce, but this time without their spouse's input.

See the guidance "Apply for a Final Order" (sole).

Case number: 107643459

Dear Jane Dean

Your partner, Mike Dean has still not applied for a final order. This means your marriage is still not legally ended.

If they will not or cannot apply then you can apply instead, even though you are the respondent. This is because it has been over three months since they could apply. If you want to apply then sign in to your account and find out how: https://hmcts-access.service.gov.uk/login?client_id=divorce&response_type=code&redirect_uri=https://www.apply-divorce.service.gov.uk/loguth2/callback

Divorce and Dissolution HM Courts & Tribunals Service divorcecase@justice.gov.uk 0300 303 0642 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)



Final Order Applied For (Respondent)

Sole

Supporting users to understand the final order process, the last stage in the divorce journey

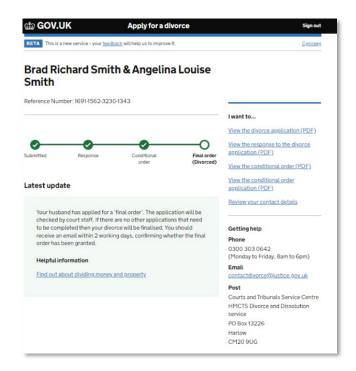
Final Order Applied For (Respondent)





This notification informs the user that **their spouse** has made an application for a "final order". This is the last stage in the divorce process.

The user does not need to take any action, the application will be checked, and both the user and their spouse will be informed of the outcome within 2 working days.





Final Order Granted (Respondent)

Sole

Supporting users to view and download their final order

Final Order Granted (Respondent)





When a user receives this notification, it is because their spouse's "final order" has been granted.

If they wish to, they can view and download the order through the portal.

They can do this by clicking on the <u>blue underlined</u> text as shown.

This is the last stage in the sole applicant divorce process. The couple are now legally divorced, and the marriage has formally ended.





Recognising
Divorce Long
Tasks

When to book a Partner appointment





Joint and Sole Applications How to use the Guidance Pack

Joint

This icon indicates when the guidance is relevant only to joint applicants.

Sole

This icon indicates when the guidance is relevant only to sole applicants.

Both

This icon indicates when the guidance is relevant to both joint and sole applicants.



Recognising Long Tasks – Quick Links

Joint

Joint applications:

- Confirm Application
- Review of Divorce Application (Respondent)
- Conditional Order Rejected

Sole

Sole applications:

Conditional Order Rejected

Confirm Application

Joint

The user requires support to review their spouse's response

Confirm Application





This long task is indicated by a notification like this:

The user has submitted an initial application for divorce and the application was send to their spouse to either accept it or suggest changes to the wording.

Now it has been returned to the user and they need to review it, decide if they want to confirm, submit, and pay the fee for the application.

Make a partner booking for the user.

⇔ GOV.UK

Dear Mike Dean

Your wife reviewed the information you entered and provided some of their own information. Now you need to confirm and pay for your joint application.

Confirm and pay for your application: https://nfdiv-apply-for-divorce.aat.platform.hmcts.net/

Your application will not be submitted until you have confirmed and paid for it.

Divorce and Dissolution
HM Courts & Tribunals Service
divorcecase@justice.gov.uk
0300 303 0642 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)



Confirm Application





If the notification states that the user's spouse did not apply for help with fees (see example):

Then the user can either continue to review, confirm and pay the fee for their application, or they can choose to switch to a sole application.

In either instance, make a partner booking for the user.

Dear Mike Dean

Your partner, Jane Dean, reviewed the information you entered and provided some of their own information. Now you need to confirm and pay for your joint application.

Your partner, Jane Dean, did not apply for 'Help With Fees' and so help with fees cannot be claimed on this application.

Confirm and pay for your joint application: https://hmcts-

access.service.gov.uk/login?

client_id=divorce&response_type=code&redirect_uri=https://www.apply-divorce.service.gov.uk/oauth2/callback

Your application will not be submitted until you have paid for it.

If you cannot pay

The payment system will only allow you to pay but you could talk to your partner, Jane Dean, about whether they would be prepared to send you some money.

Or you could submit a sole application. If you apply as a sole applicant, only you have to apply and be eliquible for Help With Fees.

If you create a sole application, you will not have to re-enter the information you have already provided. You will need to provide some new information though



Review of Divorce Application (Respondent)

Joint

The user requires support to review their spouse's submission and to submit a response

Review of Divorce Application (Respondent)





This long task is indicated by a notification like this:

Originally, the user's husband or wife submitted the joint application, and when the user was sent that initial application to review, they wanted some changes made (for example to the wording).

It was sent back to their spouse who has reviewed it and potentially made further changes. The user needs to check it again and has the option to submit more changes if they wish. This can happen until both are happy with the final version.

Dear Jane Dean

Your partner, Mike Dean, has updated the information in your divorce application. You need to review the information by 30/10/2023

Sign in and review the updated information they have provided: https://hmcts-access.service.gov.uk/login? client id=divorce&response type=code&redirect uri=https://www.applydivorce.service.gov.uk/oauth2/callback

Divorce and Dissolution HM Courts & Tribunals Service divorcecase@justice.gov.uk 0300 303 0642 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

Your feedback helps improve this service for others: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Divorce Feedback/?page 🏥 GOV.UK

Apply for a divorce

BETA This is a new service - your feedback will help us to improve it.

You need to review your joint application

Your husband has created a divorce application. They have indicated they want to submit the application jointly with you. A joint application is when you both review and submit the application together.

You need to review the information they have provided. If you confirm it's correct and confirm the application for divorce can be made, then it can be submitted. If you do not confirm then you will be told what you can do next.

You will also be asked to provide some information.

Continue

Save and sign out

Contact us for help





Joint

The user requires support to review and respond to the court's rejection of their application





If the user's application for a conditional order is rejected or "refused", then they will receive a notification like the one shown.

They will need to sign in to see what reasoning was provided by the court, and to see what they need to do next to continue with the application.

The link to view the reason will be contained in the email notification.

∰ GOV.UK

Case number: 107463554

Dear Jo Bloggs,

Your application for a conditional order has been refused. Sign into your HMCTS account to see the reason and what you need to do, to progress your application.

Sign in: [sign into hub]

Divorce Service

HM Courts & Tribunals Service

0300 303 0642 (Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm, Saturday 8am to 2pm)

Email: contactdivorce@justice.gov.uk



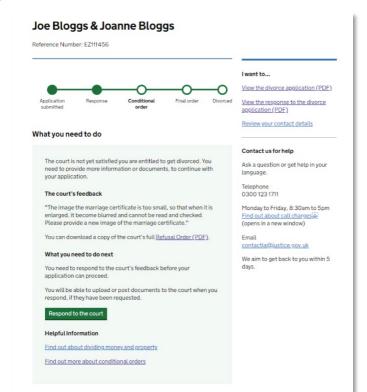




Usual reasons for a rejection will be concerning administrative error by the applicant, for example if the marriage certificate is unclear or unreadable, or if it requires translating.

Whilst unlikely, as no fault divorces are permitted, it is still possible for a conditional order to be rejected outright.

To progress, the user now needs to review the feedback and submit a response to the court.





This response is in the format of another form to be completed and is a clear long task.

It may involve typing out an explanation, providing additional information or uploading photos and documents.

This can be difficult for some users who have a limited understanding of file sizes and image resolution.

Make a partner booking for users to support them to complete this form.

Joint



Respond to the court's feedback The court has given the following feedback on your application "The image the marriage certificate is too small, so that when it is enlarged, it become blurred and cannot be read and checked. Please provide a new image of the marriage certificate. Enter your response (optional) If the court wants you to explain something or provide additional information then write your response here. If the court has just asked you to upload documents then you do not have to write anything, unless you want to. Upload your documents If the court has asked you to upload any documents or you want to upload a document to support what you wrote above, then you can upload it here Make sure the photo or scan shows the whole document. Check you can read all the text before uploading it. If court staff cannot read it then it You can take a picture with your phone and upload i You should upload at least one clear image which shows the whole document If you think it will help court staff read the details you can upload more images. If your document has more than one page then you should upload at least one image of each page Uploaded files No files uploaded The file must be in jpg, bmp, tiff, png or pdf format. Maximum file size 10MB Choose a file Drag and drop files here I cannot upload some or all of my documents

Save and sign out

Contact us for held



Sole

The user requires support to review and respond to the court's rejection of their application





If the user's application for a conditional order is rejected or "refused", then they will receive a notification like the one shown.

They will need to sign in to see what reasoning was provided by the court, and to see what they need to do next to continue with the application.

The link to view the reason will be contained in the email notification.

⊞ GOV.UK

Case number: 107463554

Dear Jo Bloggs,

Your application for a conditional order has been refused. Sign into your HMCTS account to see the reason and what you need to do, to progress your application.

Sign in: [sign into hub]

Divorce Service HM Courts & Tribunals Service

0300 303 0642 (Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm, Saturday 8am to 2pm)

Email: contactdivorce@justice.gov.uk



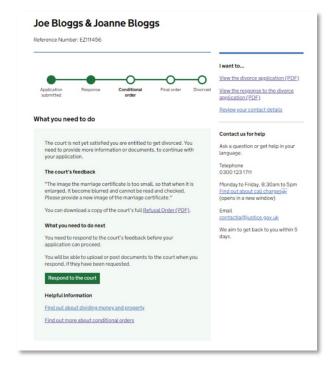




Usual reasons for a rejection will be concerning administrative error by the applicant, for example if the marriage certificate is unclear or unreadable, or if it requires translating.

Users should be reassured it is highly unlikely a conditional order would be rejected outright since no fault divorces are permitted.

To progress, the user now needs to review the feedback and submit a response to the court.





Sole



This response is in the format of another form to be completed and is a clear long task.

It may involve typing out an explanation, providing additional information or uploading photos and documents.

This can be difficult for some users who have a limited understanding of file sizes and image resolution.

Make a partner booking for users to support them to complete this form.





05 Glossary

Key terms and definitions



Glossary

CTSC

Court & Tribunal Service Centres

Dashboard

The front page of the user's online portal

Divorce

Divorce is the legal process of ending a marriage

Help With Fees

Low-income users can apply for help with court fees

HMCTS

His Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service

Joint Application

The married couple apply together for the divorce

Notification

Message received via email (or post) communicating a change or update in the proceedings

Portal

The online home of the user's case

Sole Application

One half of the married couple applies for the divorce on their own



06 Index

Search for key terms within this pack



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Apply for final order: joint sole

Apply for final order (3 months no response)

(sole)

Civil partnership

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Conditional order granted (respondent) (sole)

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Signposting

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<u>Supporting sign in – short task</u>

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Viewing documents

<u>Vulnerable</u>





Thank you!