

Suspension and Dismissal

Stipulation and Order Suspending Proceedings to Effect Reconciliation (FA-4144)

This form is used to suspend (put on hold) the divorce/legal separation action for up to 90 days. Both parties must agree. If a temporary order is in effect, all orders are also suspended. Once the divorce/legal separation is suspended, the following options apply:

- **Reconcile (get back together):** If at any point during the suspension, the parties **agree** to reconcile, they may complete the **Stipulation and Order Dismissing Divorce/Legal Separation (FA-4143)** (see below) to end the divorce/legal separation action.
- **End the suspension and continue with the divorce/legal separation:** Either party may make this request at any time during the suspension. If so, he/she must complete the **Motion and Order to Revoke Suspension of Proceedings to Effect Reconciliation (FA-4145)** and mail a copy to the court and the other spouse. All temporary orders previously entered by the court will be reinstated.
- **Do nothing:** If the parties take no action and the 90 days pass, the divorce/legal separation action will proceed and all temporary orders will be reinstated.

Stipulation and Order Dismissing Divorce/Legal Separation (FA-4143)

This form is used when both parties agree to dismiss or end the pending divorce/legal separation action. If the parties dismiss the action and later choose to divorce or legally separate, they must file a new action and again pay all the required fees.

Procedural Checklist

1. Complete either the **Stipulation and Order Suspending Proceedings** or the **Stipulation and Order Dismissing Divorce/Legal Separation**.
2. Make three (3) copies of the completed original **Stipulation and Order**. Make an additional copy if the State of Wisconsin (Child Support Agency) is a party to the action.

3. Prepare two (2) self-addressed stamped envelopes (one addressed to you and one addressed to your spouse) so the court can send each party a copy of the **Stipulation and Order** after the judge has signed it. If the State of Wisconsin (Child Support Agency) is a party, prepare one unstamped envelope addressed to the Child Support Agency.
4. Mail or deliver the original, copies, and self-addressed stamped envelopes to the court. The judge will review, sign, and have a signed copy returned to you.
5. If you requested a:
 - a. **Dismissal:** There is nothing more you need to do. Your divorce/legal separation has been dismissed.
 - b. **Suspension:** The 90 day suspension begins the date the judge signs the order. During the 90 day suspension you may:
 - i. **Reconcile** and complete the form to dismiss the divorce (Complete the **Stipulation and Order Dismissing Divorce/Legal Separation** and repeat #'s 1-4 above).
 - ii. **End** the suspension and continue with the divorce/legal separation.
 1. Complete the **Motion and Order to Revoke Suspension of Proceedings to Effect Reconciliation** form. All temporary orders will resume upon signature of the court.
 2. Make three (3) copies of the completed original **Motion and Order to Revoke Suspension of Proceedings to Effect Reconciliation**. Make an additional copy if the State of Wisconsin (Child Support Agency) is a party to the action.
 3. Prepare two (2) self-addressed stamped envelopes (one addressed to you and one addressed to your spouse) so the court can send each party a copy of the **Motion and Order to Revoke Suspension of Proceedings to Effect Reconciliation** after the judge has signed it. If the State of Wisconsin (Child Support Agency) is a party, prepare one unstamped envelope addressed to the Child Support Agency.
 4. Mail or deliver the original, copies, and self-addressed stamped envelopes to the court. The judge will review, sign, and have a signed copy returned to you.
 - iii. **Do nothing**, and after the 90 days ends ask the court how to proceed with the action (refer back to your **Basic Guide to Divorce/Legal Separation** for how to proceed).