

## **DIVORCE TERMINOLOGY**

**Complaint** - a written claim filed with the court to start a case.

**Consent** - when the other party agrees to sign an order without a hearing.

**Custodian** - a parent or any other person who has physical custody of a child.

**Defendant** - the person against whom a case is originally filed.

**Enter** - how an order becomes effective. It includes getting the signature of a judge on an order and filing the order with the county clerk.

**First Class Mail** - a way of delivering court papers to the other party by regular mail.

**Guardian** - a person appointed by the court, other than a parent, who is legally responsible for a child. **Hearing** - a court meeting where both parties explain why a proposed order should or should not be signed by the judge.

**Motion** - a request made to the court for action in a pending case.

**Moving Party** - a person who asks the court to do something on their behalf.

**Objection** - what a party objects to in a proposed or recommended order. Objections must be made in writing.

**Order** - a decision signed by a judge requiring certain action.

**Party** - person involved in a case. May include someone other than a parent, if the court grants that person's request to be part of a case (Third Party).

**Peacemaker** - a court officer with authority to mediate cases and recommend orders.

**Pending Case** - a court case where no final judgment/order has been entered.

**Proposed Order** - an order which has not yet been signed by the judge.

**Plaintiff** - the person who starts a case.

**Service** - How a party receives legal papers. (See first class mail)

**Stipulate** - when both parties agree to something in writing.

**Stipulated Order** - an order that is agreed to, prepared, and signed by both parties.

**True Copy** - a copy of a court paper imprinted with a seal of the court to show that the copy is real.