



NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

KIMBERLY A. YONTA, PRESIDENT
Yonta Law, LLC
111 Livingston Ave.
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
732-421-1680 • FAX: 732-543-7502
kim@yontalawnj.com

November 3, 2020

Honorable Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts
R.J. Hughes Justice Complex
25 W. Market Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Re: Directive #18-20 / "Divorce on the Papers"

Dear Judge Grant:

As you know, Directive #18-20, issued June 5, 2020 and relating to the entry of default and uncontested dissolution judgments without personal appearances, was designed to provide a uniform process for "divorce on the papers" without the need for a formal appearance before the court. The Directive states, "Effective immediately, each Vicinage is to implement these procedures in all appropriate cases."

Having the ability to obtain a "divorce on the papers" when all parties agree, or when there is a defaulting party, is particularly important under the unusual circumstances we are confronting, which interfere with the ability to efficiently schedule in-person appearances.

The New Jersey State Bar Association's matrimonial law practitioners have reported, however, that not all vicinages are following the Directive. Under its provisions, if all of the required documents are submitted to the judge's satisfaction, the Judgment for Divorce/Dissolution should be signed and mailed to the litigants, without any further action required. Some courts, though, are requiring additional documents or the virtual appearance of litigants to place the judgment on the record. This is contrary to the intent of the Directive.

The NJSBA requests that you communicate further with the vicinages to clarify that, if all of the requirements outlined in the Directive are met, a Judgment of Divorce should be issued and mailed as soon as possible. Otherwise, litigants in certain counties will not be able to avail themselves of the streamlined procedure provided for in the Directive.

On behalf of the NJSBA, I thank you for your time and attention, and for all of your efforts in ensuring the continued operation of the courts.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kimberly A. Yonta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kimberly A. Yonta, Esq.
President

cc: Steven Bonville, Esq., Chief of Staff
Domenick Carmagnola, Esq. NJSBA President-Elect
Angela C. Scheck, NJSBA Executive Director