Rule One **Expedited Marriage Dissolution** Case Pilot Project

Securing the Just, Speedy and Inexpensive **Resolution of Divorces in Wyoming**

Wyo. R. Civ. P. 1 states:

• "These rules govern procedure in all courts of record in the State of Wyoming, in all actions, suits or proceedings of a civil nature and in all special statutory proceedings except as provided in Rule 81. They shall be construed and administered to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action."

The History of The Rule 1 Study

Group:

A collaboration of Wyoming justices, judges, and attorneys dedicated to the promotion of greater accessibility, efficiency, and accountability in the civil justice system



- Conducted surveys of judges and attorneys Reviewed "time to disposition" studies

amendments to the Wyoming Rules of Civil Procedure

Created the Expedited Marriage Dissolution Case Pilot Project

What is the EMDC Pilot Project?

- A one-year effort to address "just, speedy, and inexpensive" issues in divorce cases. Anticipated start date: January 1, 2015
- "Temporary Rules for Expedited Marriage Dissolution Cases," passed by Wyoming Supreme Court, effective July 1, 2014
- Will allow further analysis of divorce proceedings to assess the need for future changes, if any.

Introducing The Pilot Courts...



- Laramie County (Judges, Campbell, Sharpe & Rogers)
- Albany County (Judge Donnell)
- Goshen County/Platte County (Judge Kautz)
- Campbell County & Crook County (Judges Deegan, Perry & Rumpke)

Who Can Participate?

<u>YES</u>

- Divorces
- With or Without Children
- Both parties consent
- <u>NO</u> Modifi
- Post-Trial Issues
- (OSC)
- Paternity
- Defaults

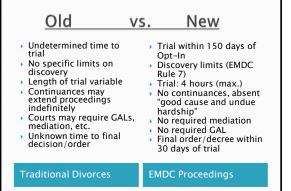
How to "Opt In":

- Requires consent of *both* parties
 Not available in cases of default
- File a "Stipulated Consent" with the Court
 Within 30 days after service, acceptance of service, acknowledgement, or waiver of service
- Verbally Consent at Scheduling Conference
 Parties and/or counsel must be present



What Happens Next?

- Scheduling Conference with Court within 30 days of Opt-In
 All parties must be present
- Disclosures Due within 30 days of Opt-In
- Expedited Trial Setting within 120 days after Scheduling Conference



Assignments (EMDC Rule 9)

- EMDC may be assigned to Circuit Judges and/or Special Masters (at option of District Judge)
- Allows for settings and resolution of cases in accordance with EMDC timelines
- District Judge approves final orders
- Proceedings may be reported or digitally recorded

Pro Se Cases (EMDC Rule 10)

- Allows Court to inquire of parties
- Judge takes more active role
- Relaxed rules of evidence
- No independent duty to address issues not raised by parties. Waiver of issues not presented to court at time of trial.

Benefits for You?

- Realistic retainers = more paying clients
- Resolution before retainer runs out = you get paid!
- Efficiency in disposition of case = better case
 & client management
- Reduction in "frivolous" issues
- Avoidance of cost-prohibitive measures & delay tactics (ADR, GALs, continuances, etc.)
- Most importantly, SATISFIED CLIENTS

How to Reach us:

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