

# Action for Legal Separation

An **action for legal separation** is a court case that a married person or married spouses can file in order to get a court order declaring them legally separated. A legal separation court order does not end a marriage, but allows the court to issue orders concerning division of property, spousal support (alimony), and visitation and custody for any minor children. The parties remain married but live separately.

A legal separation is **not** required to live separate and apart from your spouse. However, a legal separation creates an enforceable court order setting forth the rights and obligations of each spouse, such as spousal support (alimony) or child support.

## For help with forms:

- Our [Court's website](#) has many form sets. Court customers may modify a **dissolution petition and separation agreement** (if the terms of the legal separation are agreed) and the related forms or a **divorce complaint** (if the terms are not agreed).
- [Franklin County Law Library](#) has legal separation form sets online that may be helpful.