

Documentation & Tracking Guide

Enforcing Your Out-of-State Divorce Decree in Illinois

DOCUMENTS YOU MUST GATHER

You need official certified copies of your court orders from the court that issued them. Regular copies will not work. Contact the circuit court clerk in the county where your divorce was finalized. Most courts accept requests online, by mail, or in person. Get at least two certified copies of each document.



REQUIRED DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST

- ☐ Your complete divorce decree
- ☐ Any modifications issued after the original decree
- ☐ Parenting plans or custody orders
- ☐ Property settlement agreements

VIOLATION TRACKING

Courts need specific dates, amounts, and details to enforce your decree. Start documenting violations now, not when you decide to go to court.



MISSED CHILD SUPPORT LOG

Due Date	Amount Due	Amount Received	Running Total Owed



DENIED PARENTING TIME LOG

Date	Scheduled Time	What Happened	Witnesses



COMMUNICATION LOG

Date	Method	Summary	Saved Where

WHAT TO SAVE

- ☒ Text messages and emails
- ☒ Screenshots of voicemails
- ☒ Bank statements showing missed payments
- ☒ Logs of missed parenting time with dates

IS YOUR CASE SIMPLE OR COMPLEX?

Simple enrollments may be manageable on your own, but most interstate cases have hidden complications. Check any that apply to your situation:

- ☐ Does your former spouse live in a different state than you?
- ☐ Are you unsure which state has authority over your case?
- ☐ Do you need to coordinate enforcement across state lines?
- ☐ Are you unsure whether Illinois can modify your custody order or only enforce it?
- ☐ Has your decree been modified since the original divorce?
- ☐ Are you unsure which Illinois county to file in?

If you checked any of these boxes, your case may benefit from legal guidance.

TIMELINE OVERVIEW

Enrollment typically takes 45 to 90 days from filing to completion. After you file, your former spouse has 30 days to respond. If they object, expect an additional 30 to 60 days for a hearing. The process moves faster in some Illinois counties than others, and delays can occur if your former spouse files objections or if court schedules are backed up.



FIVE MISTAKES THAT DELAY ENFORCEMENT

- 01 **Filing in the wrong county.** You must file where your former spouse lives. Filing in the wrong county means your case gets transferred or dismissed.
- 02 **Incomplete paperwork.** Missing information or improper certification gets your filing rejected. You lose time and may lose filing fees.
- 03 **Waiting too long.** Statutes of limitation run while you wait. Evidence becomes harder to find. Your former spouse may move assets or change jobs.
- 04 **Poor documentation.** Without proof, courts cannot help you. Start documenting violations now, not later.
- 05 **Ignoring violations after enrollment.** Having an enrolled decree does not make your former spouse comply. You must actively use enforcement tools when violations occur.

NEED HELP ENFORCING YOUR DECREE?

Anderson Boback & Marshall helps families throughout Cook, DuPage, Lake, and Will counties enforce out-of-state divorce decrees. Contact us for a confidential consultation.