



**FEDERAL MAGISTRATES COURT OF AUSTRALIA**  
**PRACTICE DIRECTION NO 1 OF 2007**

**Introduction: Application for Divorce, Response to Divorce and Divorce Service Forms**

The Federal Magistrates Court has undertaken a review of existing forms. As part of this review the divorce forms have been revised following extensive consultation. The new forms are designed to be user-friendly and in a more consistent format to other forms. It is proposed to introduce the new forms prior to a formal rule amendment by way of this Practice Direction.

The key changes being introduced are as follows:

**Application for Divorce**

A new application will replace the existing one. The explanatory text has been removed from the existing application, and the new application will be more user-friendly and less complicated. A Kit will accompany the application and will provide applicants with information about how to complete their Application for Divorce.

**Response to Divorce**

A response to divorce will replace the existing two forms:

- Response (Divorce or other principal relief)
- Response objecting to jurisdiction.

Parties objecting to jurisdiction will now be required to complete a Response to Divorce.

**Divorce Service Forms**

- The existing form Affidavit of Service (divorce) is re-named Affidavit of Service by Hand (Divorce), and is only used in matters where the respondent is personally served.
- The Affidavit by Applicant for Service by Post (divorce) is re-named Affidavit of Service by Post (Divorce), and is used in matters where the applicant serves the respondent by post.
- The Affidavit of Proof of Signature (divorce) has been re-named Affidavit Proving Signature (Divorce).
- A new acknowledgment of service has been created for divorce called Acknowledgment of Service (Divorce).

All of the service forms have been re-designed to be clearer, less complicated and more user-friendly for litigants and the Court. A Kit has been created to accompany the service forms, and provides litigants with information about serving an Application for Divorce.

**Important dates**

The forms will be introduced as from 5 February 2007 and will be available at [www.familylawcourts.gov.au](http://www.familylawcourts.gov.au) and at family law registries.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JP Pascoe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

**JOHN PASCOE AO  
CHIEF FEDERAL MAGISTRATE  
FEDERAL MAGISTRATES COURT OF AUSTRALIA**

**DATE: 11 January 2007**