

Steps In Filing A “Clean” Declaratory Judgment (DJ) Lawsuit

1. Filing in Florida Circuit Court:

- Obtain a copy of the pleading to be filed in court. You can copy the one from this website or contact bill@abolish-alimony.org .
- Change the personal information contained therein to fit your situation.
- Contact your local circuit court clerk to check the filing requirements:
 - Number of copies needed.
 - Ask if they will date-stamp a complete copy for you, make a copy of the date-stamped first page for you or any other procedure they might have to get you one for your files.
 - Filing fees – approx. \$250-300.
 - Any other document preparation requirements such as binding, stapling, etc.
- A copy will have to be served by the Leon County Sheriff to defendant Zingale in Tallahassee. See details below.
- Take the filing fees along with the completed documents with the required number of copies (usually one for the court and one copy for your files) to the clerk and file it getting the date-stamped copy for your file.
 - You will need to make a copy and mail by first class mail to James Zingale, Executive Director, Florida Department of Revenuet, Bill McCollum, Florida Attorney General (AG),and your ex-spouses attorney if she has one or to her if she doesn't. Fill out the certificate of service at the end of the document appropriately.
 - From the clerk, find out the name of the judge assigned to your case and the name of their Judicial Assistant (JA). Take a copy and give it to the JA when you have that information.
- Further help can be had by contacting bill@abolish-alimony.org

2. Filing in Florida District Court of Appeals: To be added at a later date.

There is no doubt that the case will be denied in the Lower Tribunal (LT). After this happens, the case will be filed in the District Court of Appeals (DCA). Steps for filing in the appeals court are located in a “**District Appeals Court Calendar and Checklist**” you can obtain at two sites:

1. <http://www.alimonyreform.org/legal-self-help.html>
2. <http://www.abolish-alimony.org/alimony-legal-self-help.htm>

Keep in mind that our goal is to get a higher court to rule on this even if it takes going all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court. By filing in the various Florida district courts, our hope is that we will find a judge that will see the validity of our arguments and rule in our favor. The more filings we have, the better our chances.

In the meantime, you will want to be familiarizing yourself with the rules of the road.

Download the current **Florida Rules Of Appellate Procedure**

Find the **District Court of Appeals** for your area and check out their requirements for filing.

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Leon County Sheriff for serving summons to Zingale

For information call: Shirley 850-922-3449

Send: Original clerked stamped copy & stamped copy for return with stamped return envelope

Mail: \$20 check to Leon County Sheriff

Mail to:

Leon County Sheriff

Attn: Civil Division

P.O. Box 727

Tallahassee, FL 32302