

**RULE 70**  
**DIVORCE ACTIONS**

**APPLICATION OF RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE**

**70.01** All the Rules of Civil Procedure that apply in a proceeding apply in a divorce action, with necessary modifications, except where Rules 70.02 to 70.25 provide otherwise.

**DEFINITIONS**

**70.02** In Rules 70.03 to 70.25,

- (a) "Act" means the *Divorce Act, 1985* (Canada);
- (b) "child of the marriage" has the same meaning as in section 2 of the Act;
- (c) "financial statement" means one or more of Forms 70 I(A) through 70 I(D) that is directed to be filed by a judge or the Rules; and
- (d) "uncontested action" means an action in which the respondent has failed to deliver an answer or the answer has been withdrawn or struck out.

**PETITION**

**General**

- 70.03** (1) The originating process for the commencement of a divorce action is a petition for divorce (Form 70 A), varied as the circumstances of the proceeding require, except as provided by paragraph 70.09(6) (counterpetition against person not already a party (Form 70 B)).
- (2) A certificate of the marriage from Vital Statistics (P.E.I.) or the equivalent thereof from another jurisdiction, shall be filed with the petition for divorce before a petition is issued, unless the petition states that it is impossible to obtain the certificate.
- (3) The party commencing the action is called the petitioner and the opposite party is called the respondent.

- (4) The petition shall be signed, sealed and dated by the registrar and shall then be deemed to be issued.
- (5) The original petition shall be filed with the registrar at the time of issuing.

**Person Alleged to Have Been Involved in Adultery**

- (6) In a petition in which it is alleged that the respondent spouse has committed adultery, it is not necessary to set out the name of the other person alleged to have been involved.

**Joint Petition for Divorce**

- (7) Spouses may commence a divorce action jointly without a respondent.

**Claim for Relief**

- (8) A petition that contains a claim for support or division of property shall set out the nature of relief claimed.

**Joinder of Claim**

- (9) Any claim for relief under the *Family Law Act*, the *Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act* or under any Act, providing for spousal or child support, may be joined with a proceeding for divorce provided that the claim is specifically pleaded.
- (10) Unless the court determines otherwise, a petition shall have the effect of raising all issues concerning or in any way relating to the matters for which relief is specifically sought notwithstanding that an issue is not specifically referred to in the petition and the court may make any judgment or order which the justice of the case may require.

**SERVICE OF PETITION**

**Manner of Service**

- 70.04** (1) A petition shall be served on the respondent personally or in accordance with subrules 16.03 (2) to (4) (acceptance of service by a lawyer, service by mail with acknowledgement of receipt card), unless the court makes an order under Rule 16.04 for substituted service or dispensing with service.
- (2) A person who effects personal service of a petition shall:
    - (a) ask the respondent to complete and sign the acknowledgement of service on the back of the petition and shall sign as witness to the respondent's signature, or record the fact that the respondent declined to sign the

acknowledgement of service, as the case may be; or

- (b) file an affidavit of service in accordance with Rule 16.09(1).

#### **Person Alleged to Have Been Involved in Adultery**

- (3) If a petition sets out the name of a person alleged to have been involved in adultery with the respondent, it shall be served on the person, unless the court orders otherwise, by any method authorized by Rule 16 for service of an originating process, or by mailing a copy of the petition to the person at their last known address.

#### **Petitioner not to Effect Personal Service**

- (4) A petition that is served personally shall be served by someone other than the petitioner.

#### **Service Outside Prince Edward Island**

- (5) A petition may be served outside Prince Edward Island without a court order.

#### **Substituted Service by Advertisement**

- (6) Where substituted service of a petition by advertisement in a newspaper is ordered by the court, the advertisement shall be in Form 70 C.

### **TIME FOR SERVICE OF PETITION**

**70.05** A petition shall be served within six months after it is issued or within such further time as the court may allow on an ex parte motion made before or after the expiration of the time for service.

### **PLEADINGS**

- 70.06** (1) In a divorce action, pleadings shall consist of the petition (Form 70 A), answer (Form 70 D) and reply (Form 70 E), if any.
- (2) In a counterpetition, pleadings shall consist of the counterpetition (Form 70 B), answer to counterpetition (Form 70 F) and reply to answer to counterpetition (Form 70 G), if any.
  - (3)(a) Within 45 days of the filing of the answer, the case management co-ordinator shall set a date for a case management conference with a judge.
  - (b) Following each case management conference, the court shall provide to the parties a case management conference report which shall include any directions provided by the judge at the case management conference.

## **ANSWER**

### **Time for Delivery of Answer**

- 70.07** (1) A respondent who wishes to oppose a claim made in the petition shall deliver an answer,
- (a) within twenty days after service of the petition, where the respondent is served in Prince Edward Island;
  - (b) within forty days after service of the petition, where the respondent is served elsewhere in Canada or in the United States of America; or
  - (c) within sixty days after service of the petition, where the respondent is served anywhere else,
- except as provided in subrule (3), 19.01(5) (late delivery of defence) or 70.10(2) (counterpetition against petitioner and non-party).

### **Notice of Intent to Defend**

- (2) A respondent served with a petition who intends to defend the action may deliver a notice of intent to defend (Form 70 H) within the time prescribed for delivery of the answer.
- (3) A respondent who delivers a notice of intent to defend within the prescribed time is entitled to ten days, in addition to the time prescribed by subrule (1), within which to deliver an answer.

### **Discontinuance of Intent to Defend and/or Answer**

- (4) A respondent who has delivered a notice of intent to defend or an answer may file a notice of discontinuance of intent to defend or a notice of discontinuance of answer anytime before the date for trial and the action shall then continue as an uncontested action.

## **REPLY**

- 70.08** A reply, if any, shall be delivered within ten days after service of the answer.

## **COUNTERPETITION**

### **Where Available**

- 70.09** (1) A respondent who claims any relief against the petitioner, other than dismissal of the action and costs, shall do so by way of counterpetition.
- (2) A respondent who counterpetitions against the petitioner may join as a respondent to the counterpetition any other person,

whether a party to the main action or not, who is a necessary or proper party to the counterpetition.

**Person Alleged to Have Been Involved in Adultery**

- (3) Subrules 70.03(6) and 70.04(3) (naming and service of person alleged to have been involved in adultery) apply, with necessary modifications, to a counterpetition.

**Counterpetition to be in Same Document as Answer**

- (4) A respondent shall include the counterpetition (Form 70 B) and the answer in a single document entitled an answer and counterpetition.

**Claim for Relief**

- (5) A counterpetition that contains a claim for support or division of property shall set out the nature of relief claimed.

**Counterpetition to be Issued where Respondent to Counterpetition not Already Party to Main Action**

- (6) Where a person who is not already a party to the main action is made a respondent to the counterpetition, the answer and counterpetition,
- (a) shall be issued,
    - (i) within the time prescribed by Rule 70.07 for the delivery of an answer in the main action, or at any time before the respondent is noted in default, or
    - (ii) subsequently with leave of the court; and
  - (b) shall contain a second title of proceeding showing who is petitioner by counterpetition and who are respondents to the counterpetition.

**Service Outside Prince Edward Island**

- (7) A counterpetition may be served outside Prince Edward Island without a court order.

**TIME FOR DELIVERY OR SERVICE OF ANSWER AND COUNTERPETITION**

**Where all Parties are Parties to the Main Action**

- 70.10** (1) Where a counterpetition is only against the petitioner, or only against the petitioner and another person who is already a party to the main action, the answer and counterpetition shall be delivered within the time prescribed by Rule 70.07 for the delivery of the answer in the main action, or at any time before

the respondent has been noted in default.

**Where New Party is Brought In**

- (2) Where a counterpetition is against the petitioner and a respondent to the counterpetition who is not already a party to the main action, the answer and counterpetition shall be served, after it has been issued, on the parties to the main action and, together with all the pleadings previously delivered in the main action, on the respondent to the counterpetition who is not already a party to the main action, and shall be filed with proof of service,
  - (a) within thirty days after the answer and counterpetition is issued or at any time before the respondent is noted in default; or
  - (b) subsequently with leave of the court.
- (3) An answer and counterpetition need not be served personally on any person who is a party to the main action, except where a respondent to the counterpetition is also a respondent in the main action and has failed to deliver a notice of intent to defend or an answer in the main action, in which case the respondent shall be served in the manner prescribed by subrule 70.04(1), whether or not the respondent has been noted in default in the main action.

**AMENDING ANSWER TO ADD COUNTERPETITION**

- 70.11** (1) A respondent who has delivered an answer that does not contain a counterpetition and who wishes to counterpetition only against the petitioner, or only against the petitioner and another person who is already a party to the main action, may amend the answer in accordance with Rules 26.02 and 26.03 in order to add the counterpetition, and Rule 26.05 (responding to amended pleading) applies to the amended answer and counterpetition.
- (2) A respondent referred to in subrule (1) who wishes to counterpetition against the petitioner and another person who is not already a party to the main action may, with leave of the court, have the registrar issue an amended answer and counterpetition, and Rule 26.05 (responding to amended pleading) applies to the amended answer and counterpetition.

**ANSWER TO COUNTERPETITION**

**By Petitioner and Other Party to Main Action**

- 70.12** (1) The petitioner and any other respondent to a counterpetition who is already a party to the main action shall deliver an answer to

counterpetition (Form 70 F) within twenty days after service of the counterpetition.

- (2) Where the petitioner delivers a reply in the main action, the answer to counterpetition and the reply shall be included in a single document entitled a reply and answer to counterpetition.

#### **By Respondent added by Counterpetition**

- (3) A respondent to a counterpetition who is not already a party to the main action shall deliver an answer to counterpetition (Form 70 F),
  - (a) within twenty days after service of the answer and counterpetition, where the respondent to the counterpetition is served in Prince Edward Island,
  - (b) within forty days after service of the answer and counterpetition, where the respondent to the counterpetition is served elsewhere in Canada or in the United States of America; or
  - (c) within sixty days after service of the answer and counterpetition, where the respondent to the counterpetition is served anywhere else,

except as provided in subrule (5) or 19.01 (5) (late delivery of defence).

- (4) Where a respondent to a counterpetition who is not already a party to the main action is served with a counterpetition and intends to defend the action, the respondent may deliver a notice of intent to defend (Form 70 H) within the time prescribed for delivery of the answer to counterpetition.
- (5) A respondent to a counterpetition who delivers a notice of intent to defend within the prescribed time is entitled to ten days, in addition to the time prescribed by subrule (3), within which to deliver an answer to counterpetition.

#### **REPLY TO ANSWER TO COUNTERPETITION**

**70.13** A reply to answer to counterpetition (Form 70 G), if any, shall be delivered within ten days after service of the answer to counterpetition.

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

##### **Where Required**

- 70.14** (1) The petitioner and the respondent shall file a financial statement as directed by the case management conference judge or the pre-motion conference judge, which shall include the specific form

or forms to be filed and the required time for filing.

- (2) Revoked.

**Waiver of Financial Statements**

- (3) Subrule (1) does not apply in respect of a claim for support under the Act if both spouses have filed a waiver of financial statements (Form 70 J), but the spouses may not waive the obligation to deliver financial statements in respect of a claim under the *Family Law Act*.

~~**Registrar to Refuse Documents Unless Accompanied by Financial Statements**~~

- (4) Revoked.

**Respondent Must File Even When Not Defending**

- (5) A respondent spouse who does not intend to defend a claim for support or division of property shall nevertheless deliver such financial information as is required by the court, but the failure of the respondent spouse to do so does not prevent the petitioner from setting the action down for trial or moving for judgment.

**Order to Require Delivery**

- (6) Where a respondent spouse fails to deliver a financial statement as directed by a case management conference judge or pre-motion conference judge, or otherwise as directed by the Rules, the court may, on motion without notice, make an order requiring the delivery of a financial statement within a specified time.
- (7) If a claim is made in the action for custody of a child, the court may order the parties to deliver financial statements within a specified time.

**Particulars of Financial Statement**

- (8) Where a financial statement lacks particularity a spouse may demand particulars and if the other spouse fails to supply them within seven days the court may, on such terms as are just,
  - (a) order particulars to be delivered within a specified time; or
  - (b) strike out the financial statement and order that a new financial statement be delivered within a specified time.



### **Sanctions for Failure to Deliver Financial Statement or to Give Particulars**

- (9) Where a spouse fails to comply with an order to deliver a financial statement, a new financial statement or particulars,
- (a) the court may dismiss the spouse's action or strike out the spouse's answer; and
  - (b) a judge may make a contempt order against the spouse.

### **Cross-examination on Financial Statement**

- (10) A spouse may cross-examine the other spouse on their financial statement.
- (11) A cross-examination on a financial statement may be used,
- (a) on a motion for interim relief; and
  - (b) at trial, in the same manner as an examination for discovery.
- (12) A spouse who has set the action down for trial or who has consented to the action being placed on a trial list may not cross-examine before trial on the other spouse's financial statement without leave of the court, but is not relieved of the obligation imposed by subrules (13) to (15).

### **Duty to Correct Financial Statement and Answers on Cross-examination**

- (13) A spouse who has delivered a financial statement and subsequently discovers,
- (a) that any information in the financial statement or answer on cross-examination on it was incorrect or incomplete when made; or
  - (b) that there has been a material change in any information contained in it,
- shall forthwith provide information concerning the change or correction in writing to the other spouse, and subrules 31.09(2) and (3) (correcting answers and sanction for failure to correct) apply, with necessary modifications.
- (14) Revoked.

### **~~Financial Statement~~**

- (15) Revoked.

## **INTERIM RELIEF**

### **Notice of Motion**

**70.15** (1) A notice of motion for interim relief shall set out the precise relief sought.

(1.1) Unless subrule (2.1) applies, the notice of motion shall state that the motion will be heard on a date and time to be fixed.

### **Pre-motion Conference**

(2) Prior to the hearing of the motion and prior to the filing of affidavits in support of the motion, a pre-motion conference shall be held before a judge of the court to consider whether any or all of the issues raised by the motion or the action can be settled or resolved on an interim or final basis.

(2.1) Subrule (2) does not apply:

(a) to applications and motions made pursuant to the *Victims of Family Violence Act*, unless the parties consent to a pre-motion conference; and

(b) where the court, at the request of one or more of the parties, has waived the requirement for a pre-motion conference.

(2.2) A notice of pre-motion conference (Form 70 AA) and a pre-motion conference memorandum (Form 70 BB) shall be served together with the notice of motion.

(2.3) The party making the motion shall serve and file, with proof of service, a copy of the notice of motion, a copy of the notice of pre-motion conference (Form 70 AA), and a copy of the pre-motion conference memorandum (Form 70 BB) at least ten days before the hearing of the pre-motion conference. Where service is effected outside of Prince Edward Island, the material shall be served and filed, with proof of service, at least twenty days before the hearing of the pre-motion conference.

(2.4) The responding party shall serve and file, with proof of service, a copy of the responding party's pre-motion conference memorandum at least four days before the hearing of the pre-motion conference.

(2.5) Where a party fails to file material required for the pre-motion conference, or files material late, or fails to appear at the hearing of the pre-motion conference, the court may

grant all or part of the relief sought in the motion, costs, or such other relief as is just in the circumstances.

- (2.6) Statements made by the parties at the hearing of the pre-motion conference shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed to the judge hearing the motion.
- (2.7) Following each pre-motion conference, the court shall provide to the parties a pre-motion conference report which shall include any directions provided by the judge at the pre-motion conference.
- (3) Unless otherwise ordered at the hearing of the pre-motion conference, costs of a pre-motion conference shall be assessed as part of the costs of the motion or action.
- (4) A judge who conducts a pre-motion conference under subrule (2) shall not preside at a motion, trial, a reference in the action or a motion for judgment, except
  - (a) where the pre-motion conference has resolved all the issues and the parties consent to the judge presiding at a motion for judgment; or
  - (b) where the respondent party has failed to appear at the hearing of the pre-motion conference and the judge, after considering all of the circumstances, grants an order arising from the pre-motion conference on such terms as is just.

**Note:** Parties should refer to Practice Note 41 regarding pre-motion conferences for additional information.

### **Written Proposal for Settlement and Costs of Interim Motion**

- (5) In exercising their discretion concerning costs, the judge who hears a motion for interim relief shall take into account any written proposal for settlement of the motion or the failure to make such a proposal.

### **Failure to Comply with Interim Order**

- (6) Where a party fails to comply with an order for interim relief and the court is satisfied that the party is able to comply with the order, the court may postpone the trial of the action or strike out any pleading or affidavit of the party in default.

### **Setting Aside Varying or Amending Interim Orders**

- (7) A person who is affected by an order for interim relief may, after the expiration of six months from the granting of the order for interim relief, move to set aside, vary or amend the order for interim relief.
- (8) On a motion under subrule (7), the court may set aside, vary or amend the order for interim relief on such terms as are just.

### **Counter-Motion for Interim Relief**

- (9) Where a notice of motion has been served and the responding party also wishes to make a motion for interim relief, the responding party shall serve and file a notice of motion setting out the precise relief sought and the court may hear the motion at the same place and time.

## **CHILDREN AND DIRECTOR OF CHILD PROTECTION'S REPORT**

### **Application of Rule**

- 70.16** (1) Subrules (2) to (13) apply where there is a child of the marriage within the meaning of s. 2 of the Act.

### **Children to be Identified**

- (2) The name and birth date of every child of the marriage shall be set out in the petition or counterpetition.

### **Service of Documents on Director of Child Protection**

- (3) Where custody of or access to children is claimed, the petition or counterpetition shall be served on the Director of Child Protection in accordance with Rule 16, and the Director of Child Protection shall forward a letter to the registrar, with a copy to counsel for the petitioner indicating whether or not the Director intends to investigate the matter.

### **Notice of Intention to Investigate and Report**

- (4) Where the Director of Child Protection intends to investigate and report to the court concerning custody of or access to a child, the Director shall serve notice of that intention (Form 70 M) on the parties and shall file a copy of the notice with proof of service.
- (5) Service of the notice on a party who has been noted in default shall be effected by mail addressed to the party at their last known address, unless the court orders otherwise.

### **Service of Documents on Director of Child Protection**

- (6) Where the Director of Child Protection has served notice, a party who subsequently serves an answer, reply or notice of motion or any other document that relates to custody of or access to the child or relates to the child's support or education, shall also serve it on the Director within the time prescribed for service on the parties.

#### **Discovery by Director of Child Protection**

- (7) Where the Director of Child Protection has served notice, the Director has the right to discovery in respect of any matter that relates to custody of or access to the child or relates to the child's support or education.

#### **Service of Report**

- (8) The Director of Child Protection shall serve the report of the Director on the parties interested in custody of or access to the child or in the child's support or education, within sixty days after serving notice under subrule (4), and shall then forthwith file a copy of the report and supporting affidavit, if any, with proof of service.
- (9) Subrule (5) applies, with necessary modifications, to service of the report.

#### **Dispute of Report**

- (10) A party on whom the report is served may dispute a statement in it or in any supporting affidavit by serving a concise statement of the nature of the dispute on every other party interested in custody of or access to the child or in the child's support or education, and on the Director of Child Protection, and filing the statement, with proof of service, within fifteen days after service of the report.
- (11) Where the Director of Child Protection has served notice under subrule (4), the action shall not be tried and no motion for judgment shall be heard until,
  - (a) all disputes have been filed or the time for filing disputes has expired; or
  - (b) every party interested in custody of or access to the child or in the child's support or education has filed a waiver (Form 70 N) of the right to dispute the report.

#### **Court Appointment of Child Advocate**

- (12) On motion of the Director of Child Protection, a judge shall

designate a lawyer as a child advocate and direct that such child advocate may intervene for the purpose of protecting the interest of the children concerned.

### **Court Appointment of Queen's Proctor**

- (13) An order may be made at any stage of the proceedings by the court or a judge thereof designating an attorney of the court as Queen's Proctor, or such person as the court shall deem proper, to intervene for the purpose of showing collusion or fraud or bringing any evidence before the court.

### **NAMING PLACE OF TRIAL**

**70.17** The petitioner shall name in the petition the place of trial and the trial shall be held at the place named in the petition unless an order is made to change the place of trial under Rule 46.02.

### **MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE AND CERTIFICATE RESPECTING PRIOR PENDING PROCEEDINGS**

**70.18** No divorce action shall be tried and no motion for judgment in a divorce action shall be heard until the registrar has received and attached to the trial or motion record,

- (a) a certificate of the marriage, or equivalent thereof from another jurisdiction, unless the petition states that it is impossible to obtain a certificate; and
- (b) a certificate or report with respect to prior pending proceedings commenced by either spouse, issued under the *Divorce Regulations* (Canada) after the petition was filed.

### **MOTION FOR JUDGMENT - UNCONTESTED PROCEEDING**

#### **Requisition and Notice of Motion**

- 70.19** (1) Where a respondent fails to deliver an answer within the prescribed time, the petitioner may, on filing proof of service of the petition, request the registrar to note the respondent in default and file a notice of motion for judgment in a divorce action and thereafter the respondent shall not deliver an answer without the consent of the petitioner or leave of the court.
- (2) Where a respondent has been noted in default, it shall not be necessary to give the respondent any notice of the date set for the hearing of the proceeding.
- (3) A requisition to note the respondent in default and a notice of motion for judgment in a divorce action shall be combined in Form 70 O.

- (4) The motion for judgment shall state whether the petitioner intends to present evidence to prove the claim by way of affidavit evidence or oral evidence.

**Petitioner's Affidavit**

- (5) The affidavit of the petitioner in support of the motion (Form 70 P) shall,
- (a) contain sufficient information for the court to satisfy itself that there is no possibility of the reconciliation of the spouses, or that the circumstances of the case are of such a nature that it would clearly not be appropriate to do so;
  - (b) confirm that all the information in the petition is correct, except as specified in the affidavit;
  - (c) if no certificate of marriage or equivalent thereof from another jurisdiction has been filed in the action, state,
    - (i) what efforts have been made to obtain a certificate and why it is impossible to obtain one,
    - (ii) the date and place of marriage, and
    - (iii) sufficient particulars to prove the marriage;
  - (d) set out particulars of the grounds for divorce;
  - (e) state that there has been no agreement, conspiracy, understanding or arrangement to which the petitioner is either directly or indirectly a party for the purpose of subverting the administration of justice, fabricating or suppressing evidence or deceiving the court;
  - (f) if the petitioner is relying on the respondent's adultery or cruelty, state that the petitioner has not condoned or connived at the act or conduct complained of, or if there has been condonation or connivance, set out the circumstances that indicate that the public interest would be better served by granting the divorce;
  - (g) provide particulars of the present and proposed custody and access arrangements in respect of each child of the marriage, if different from those set out in the petition;
  - (h) if the petitioner claims support, provide particulars of the petitioner's and the children's needs and of the respondent's means, with reference to any financial statements filed in the action, and set out particulars of any change in circumstances since any financial statements were filed;

- (i) if the petitioner does not claim a division of property, confirm that the petitioner does not wish to claim a division of property at this time and state that the petitioner is aware that a claim for a division of property may be barred after the divorce;
- (j) if the petitioner wishes to include in the judgment provisions of a consent, settlement, separation agreement or previous court order, refer to the document as an exhibit and refer to the specific provisions to be included;
- (k) if the petitioner claims costs, set out sufficient facts to enable the court to determine whether costs should be awarded;
- (l) if the petitioner seeks to have the divorce take effect earlier than thirty-one days after it is granted, set out the special circumstances that justify the earlier effective date, state that the spouses have agreed that no appeal will be taken from the judgment, and refer to the agreement as an exhibit;
- (m) provide the respondent spouse's last known address and state the means by which the address is known;
- (n) if a divorce is sought on the basis of separation, contain information that the spouses have lived separate and apart for at least one year immediately preceding the determination of the divorce proceeding and were living separate and apart at the commencement of the proceeding;
- (o) where a divorce is sought on the basis of physical or mental cruelty, contain information that the conduct of the respondent spouse has rendered continued cohabitation intolerable; and
- (p) where the divorce is sought on the basis of adultery, refer to the affidavit of the respondent spouse admitting adultery, with particulars of it, or such other information as may satisfy the court that the respondent has committed adultery.

**Respondent's Affidavit**

- (6) An affidavit made by a respondent spouse in support of the motion (Form 70 Q) shall,
  - (a) state that the respondent is the petitioner's spouse;
  - (b) provide the respondent's address for service of the



judgment;

- (c) if the petitioner is relying on the respondent's adultery and the respondent is prepared to admit the adultery, state that the respondent is aware that the respondent is not obliged to give evidence that the respondent has committed adultery, but that the respondent is willing to give that evidence;
- (d) contain the matters referred to in clauses (5)(a), (b), (f), (g), (h) and (i); and
- (e) if the respondent does not claim a division of property, confirm that the respondent does not wish to claim a division of property at this time and state that the respondent is aware that a claim for a division of property may be barred after the divorce.

#### **Where Counterpetitioner Moves for Judgment**

- (7) If the motion for judgment is made by the counterpetitioner, subrules (5) and (6) (petitioner's and respondent's affidavits) apply and references to the petition and petitioner shall be deemed to be references to the counterpetition and counterpetitioner.

#### **Affidavit of Person Involved in Adultery**

- (8) Where a person with whom a respondent spouse is alleged to have committed adultery is prepared to admit the adultery and files an affidavit in support of the motion, the affidavit shall state that the person is aware that the person is not obliged to give evidence that the respondent spouse committed adultery with the person, but that the person is willing to give that evidence.

#### **Oral Evidence at Hearing of Motion**

- (9) Instead of or in addition to filing an affidavit in support of the motion, the petitioner or counterpetitioner may examine witnesses at the hearing of the motion and subrule 39.03(3) (leave to examine witness at hearing) does not apply.

#### **Presence of Counsel**

- (10) In an uncontested proceeding, where the information is to be presented by affidavit, the judge may,
  - (a) grant a judgment without an appearance by counsel or the parties; or
  - (b) direct that counsel or the petitioner appear or that oral

evidence be presented at the hearing.

### **Registrar to Present Motion to Judge**

- (11) The registrar shall present the notice of motion and the evidence filed in support to a judge.
- (12) Before presenting the motion to a judge, the registrar shall examine the notice of motion, the evidence filed in support and the draft divorce judgment and shall complete a registrar's certificate (Form 70 R).

## **MOTION FOR JUDGMENT - CONTESTED PROCEEDING**

### **Setting Down for Trial**

- (13) (a) Where an answer has been delivered, a date for trial of a proceeding shall not be assigned until a pre-trial conference is held unless otherwise ordered by the court.
- (b) The provisions of Rule 48 shall apply to the setting down for trial of a proceeding.

### **Draft Judgment - Contested or Uncontested**

- (14) The moving party shall file with the notice of motion four copies of the draft divorce judgment (Form 70 S), a stamped envelope addressed to each of the parties and, where the Director of Child Protection has prepared a report in the action, a stamped envelope addressed to the Director.

### **Judgment**

- (15) If judgment is granted on the motion in accordance with the draft filed, the registrar shall forthwith sign and enter judgment and mail a copy of it in each envelope provided under subrule (14).
- (16) If judgment is to be granted on the motion, but not in accordance with the draft filed, the judge shall hear submissions on behalf of the moving party or adjourn the motion for that purpose.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF TRIAL**

### **Resumption after Adjournment**

- 70.20** (1) Where a judge grants an adjournment of the trial under subsection 10(2) of the Act before hearing any evidence, a motion for resumption of the trial under subsection 10(3) of the Act may be made to any judge.
- (2) Where a judge grants an adjournment of the trial under subsection 10(2) of the Act after commencing the hearing of evidence, a motion for resumption of the trial under subsection

10(3) of the Act may be made only to the same judge.

### **Notice to Attorney General**

- (3) The judge trying a divorce action may adjourn the trial for any reason to such time and place as is just and, in a proper case, may direct that the registrar forthwith give notice to the Attorney General of the proceeding, its state and the reasons of the judge for directing that notice be given.
- (4) Where notice is given, the Attorney General may appear by counsel on the adjourned trial and make submissions and otherwise participate in the proceeding to the extent that the judge allows.

### **REFERENCE TO A FAMILY MEDIATOR OR COUNSELLOR**

- 70.21** (1) A judge may on their own motion or, on consent of the parties, refer any question or issue arising in the action relating to custody, support or access to a family mediator or counsellor for inquiry and report.
- (2) Where a reference is directed under subrule (1), the mediator or counsellor shall inquire into the question or issue referred and shall make a report.
  - (3) The report of the family mediator or counsellor shall be filed and upon an action either party may cross-examine the family mediator or counsellor on the contents of their report.
  - (4) The judge may require the mediator or counsellor to give reasons for their findings or conclusions and may confirm the report in whole or in part or make such other order as is just.

### **CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE**

- 70.22** The registrar in the office where a divorce action was commenced shall issue a certificate of divorce (Form 70 T) when,
- (a) the divorce has taken effect;
  - (b) a requisition (Form 70 U) has been filed with the registrar, accompanied by an affidavit (Form 70 V) sworn after the divorce took effect and stating that,
    - (i) no appeal from the divorce is pending, or any such appeal has been abandoned or dismissed, and
    - (ii) no order has been made extending the time for appealing from the divorce, or if any such order has been made, the extended time has expired without an appeal being taken; and

- (c) the registrar has searched the court records and ascertained that there is no indication that the affidavit is incorrect.

## **VARIATION OF FINAL ORDER FOR COROLLARY RELIEF**

### **By Application**

- 70.23** (1) A person who wishes to vary, suspend or rescind a final order for support, custody or access under section 17 of the Act to obtain such an order after a divorce shall do so by notice of application.
- (1.1) Rule 70.15 (Interim Relief) applies, with necessary modifications, to applications under this Rule.

### **Filing of Financial Statement**

- (2) Revoked.
- (3) Revoked.
- (4) Revoked.
- (5) Revoked.
- (6) Revoked.

### **Assigned Support Order**

- (6.1) In an application under subrule (1) in respect of a support order that has at any time been assigned in accordance with subsection 20.1(1) or its predecessor of the Act,
- (a) the applicant shall also serve the assignee of the support order with the applicant's notice of application, affidavit in support and financial statement; and
  - (b) the respondent shall also serve the assignee with the respondent's notice of appearance, responding affidavit and financial statement.
- (6.2) On delivering a notice of appearance, the assignee becomes a respondent to the extent of its financial interest.
- (6.3) The assignee is not required to serve a financial statement.
- (6.4) If the applicant does not serve the assignee as required by subrule (6.1), the court may at any time, on motion by the assignee on notice to the parties to the application, set aside an order made in the application so far as it deals with an issue in which the assignee has a financial interest.
- (6.5) On a motion referred to in subrule (6.4), the burden of proving that the order should not be set aside is on the party who asked for the variation order.

- (6.6) If the order made in the application is set aside, the assignee of the support order is entitled to lawyer and client costs of the motion to set aside, unless the court orders otherwise.

### **Contents of Affidavit in Support**

- (7) An affidavit in support of the application shall set out,
- (a) the place or ordinary residence of the parties and the children of the marriage;
  - (b) the current marital status of the parties;
  - (c) particulars of the change in circumstances relied on;
  - (d) particulars of current custody and access arrangements and of any proposed change;
  - (e) particulars of current support arrangements and any proposed change;
  - (f) particulars of any arrears of support under an order or agreement;
  - (f.1) in an application to vary a support order, whether the support order was assigned and any particulars of the assignment known to the applicant; and
  - (g) particulars of any efforts made to mediate the matters in issue or of any assessment made in relation to custody or access.

### **Interprovincial Variation**

- (8) Evidence given by a person in Prince Edward Island in an application referred to in subsection 18(2) of the Act (provisional order) shall be given by affidavit, unless the court orders otherwise.
- (9) The registrar shall serve a notice of confirmation hearing (Form 70 X) under subsection 19(2) of the Act and the other documents referred to in that subsection,
- (a) on the respondent, in the same manner as an originating process; and
  - (b) on the applicant, by mail.
- (10) A respondent in an application referred to in subsection 18(2) of the Act shall serve and file a statement of income (Form 70 I(A)) within ten days after service of the notice of confirmation hearing.

- (11) Where a court outside Prince Edward Island remits a variation proceeding to a court in Prince Edward Island for further evidence, the registrar shall serve a notice requiring further evidence (Form 70 Y) on the parties by mail.
- (12) Where a court in Prince Edward Island receives further evidence from a court outside Prince Edward Island under subsection 18(6) or 19(6) of the Act, the registrar shall serve a notice of resumption of hearing (Form 70 Z) on the parties by mail.
- (13) The registrar shall perform the duties imposed on the court or an officer of the court by subsections 18(3) and (6) and 19(3) and (12) of the Act (transmission and filing of documents).

### **REGISTRATION OF ORDERS FOR COROLLARY RELIEF FROM OTHER PROVINCES**

- 70.24** (1) An order under sections 15, 16 or 17 of the Act that was made by a court outside Prince Edward Island may be registered under paragraph 20(3)(a) of the Act by filing a certified copy with the registrar and the order shall then be entered as an order of the court.
- (2) The certified copy of the order may be filed with the registrar by forwarding it to the registrar by ordinary mail, accompanied by a written request that it be registered under paragraph 20(3)(a) of the Act.

### **COSTS**

- 70.25** The costs of a divorce action shall be assessed in accordance with Tariff C, unless a judge orders otherwise.

*Matthews v. Gallant* 2015 PESC 12

In a case involving a claim for spousal support and retroactive spousal support, the Court reminded the parties of the necessity in filing timely and accurate financial statements. The Court cautioned that delays in the filing of sworn financial statements may result in the refusal to set a motion date, or in the case of a responding party, a much higher assessment of income than was earned. The Court denied the claim for spousal support.

*A.C.H. v. L.R.H.* 2010 PESC 28; [2010] P.E.I.J. No. 25

The petitioner named Wells Fargo as a third party in a divorce proceeding. The proceeding was dismissed because Rule 70.06, relating to divorce proceedings, does not provide for third party procedure.

**TARIFF C**  
**Solicitors' Fees in Divorce Actions**  
**Allowable Under Rule 70.25**

For all services in a divorce action up to obtaining a certificate of  
divorce..... \$400