



## Top Reasons Family Law Judgments Are Rejected

### **1. Attachments/Information in forms FL-170 and FL-180 are missing/inaccurate:**

All appropriate **attachments must be included** when submitting the forms packet for filing. For example: On the FL-180 Judgment form, number 4H is often checked, but the FL-192 attachment, which pertains to healthcare costs and child support orders, is missing.

In addition to failing to provide attachments, **information is also frequently missing on FL-180**, such as the Child/children's name and date of birth.

When a case is **uncontested**, the parties must complete and submit form FL-170 along with the judgment. If the Judgment of Dissolution is contested by way of court hearing, this form is NOT required.

### **2. When filing form FL-170 (Declaration for Default or Uncontested), the following forms are often missing:**

FL-141 (Declaration regarding service of Disclosure)

VN-131 (Waiver of Final Disclosure)

If the case is a **True Default**, and no response has been filed within 30 days after service, the Petitioner must file form FL-141 to show that they have complied with the Preliminary Declaration of Disclosure (FC 2103), and the Petitioner must also file the **Final Declaration of Disclosure** (form FL-141) or must sign the **Waiver of Final Disclosure** (form VN-131).

### **3. Missing form FL-130 (Appearance, Stipulation, Waivers)**

When a party who has not made an appearance on a case files an Appearance, Stipulation and Waiver form, a fee of \$435 must be collected. (The filing of the form constitutes their first paper.)

Note: When a case is uncontested, a response has been filed by the respondent, and there is an agreement between both parties, this form **must** be filed with the court.

### **4. The mandatory legal language regarding child support is missing from the agreement:**

When there is a marital settlement agreement attached to the judgment, and there are minor children, child support **MUST** be addressed. Pursuant to FC 4065(a), the agreement must include the legal language regarding child support.

### **5. Missing the Bifurcation Order signed by the Judge.**

When parties are requesting termination of marital status only and reserving jurisdiction over all other issues for a later date, they must submit a Bifurcation Order signed by the Judge. (FL-170, page 2, #21)

### **6. The Respondent's signature on Default Case is not being notarized:**

When the case is by way of Default, no response has been filed, and there is a Marital Settlement Agreement attached to the Judgment, **BOTH** parties must sign the agreement and the Respondent's signature **must be notarized - FC 2338.5(a)**.