

## **AMENDED JUDGMENT AND DECREE IN A DISSOLUTION**

### **DOCUMENTS NEEDED**

Stipulation to Amend the Judgment and Decree  
Order to Amend the Judgment and Decree  
Amended Judgment and Decree

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

This information is to assist individuals in filing stipulated; non-contested amended judgments in a marriage dissolution. If you have questions regarding the preparation of these documents, you should consult with an attorney. Please be advised that if you are filing your own documents, you are acting as your own attorney or “pro se” for yourself. **You are responsible for complying with the rules of court in the same way as any attorney.**

Note: If the parties do not agree to amend the Judgment and Decree, a motion to amend must be filed with the court and a hearing scheduled. Following the hearing, an Order to Amend the Judgment and Decree will be signed by the Judge. You or your attorney will still need to prepare the Amended Judgment and Decree.

### **HELPFUL HINTS**

Some reasons parties need to change the Judgment and Decree are: parties discover there is an error in the legal land description of property; personal circumstances have changed and the parties wish to change support, custody, or visitation.

When completing the forms, the case title indicating petitioner and respondent **MUST** appear exactly as it appears on the original Judgment and Decree. ***Review your papers for typographical errors before turning them into the court.*** This important step may save you the time of amending the Decree for a second time.

### **STEPS YOU MUST PERFORM**

1. Complete the Stipulation to Amend the Judgment and Decree
  - a. This document must state the reason why you are changing the Judgment and Decree and the specific paragraph(s) in the Judgment and Decree you wish to have amended.
  - b. You must have a copy of the original Judgment and Decree to help you in completing this form.
  - c. List the reasons for the amendment under the “WHEREAS” section of the form. If there are specific Findings in the Judgment and Decree that were inaccurate and you want the Order to reflect the correct information, you must list these.
  - d. Under the “THEREFORE” section of the form, list the specific paragraph(s) you wish to have changed and the language you wish to have included in the Judgment and Decree. If you have more than one paragraph to be amended, you need to state a separate paragraph for each one that is to be amended.
  - e. Each party should sign this stipulation and agreement. The signatures must be notarized. The address and telephone number of each party must be included.

2. Complete the Order to Amend Judgment and Decree
  - a. Complete this form up to the place where the Judge will sign and date the order. The exact number of the amended paragraph(s) to be amended must be specified in the Order and the EXACT new wording must be placed in the Order.
  - b. In the section “THE COURT FINDS” insert each paragraph of the “Whereas” section from your Stipulation that explains what circumstances have changed and the reasons you wish the Judgment and Decree changed.
  - c. In the section “IT IS ORDERED” insert the date of the original Judgment and Decree and each new paragraph with the correct changes.
  
3. Complete the Amended Judgment and Decree
  - a. This document will become the latest Judgment and Decree in your file. Complete the form making sure all the corrections and changes are reflected in the new document. You may download this form from the State website or obtain one from the public libraries in Dakota County. You will use the “Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order for Judgment, Judgment and Decree” form, but must **add the word AMENDED** to the beginning of the document name. ( see sample ) Be sure to use the correct form as there is one for dissolutions **with** children and one for dissolutions **without** children. The State website is: [www.mncourts.gov](http://www.mncourts.gov) . Click on “For Court Users” and then “Court Forms”.
  - b. This form must be presented to the Court Administrator’s office along with the Stipulation to Amend the Judgment and Decree and the Order to Amend the Judgment and Decree.

File your documents in the court location where your divorce is filed. Dakota County locations:

Government Center  
Family Court  
1560 W Highway 55  
Hastings, MN 55033  
651-438-8100

Western Service Center  
Family Court  
14955 Galaxie Ave  
Apple Valley, MN 55124  
952-891-7243

Northern Service Center  
Family Court  
1 W Mendota Rd, Ste 140  
W St Paul, MN 55118  
651-554-6206





