

## INSTRUCTIONS & FORMS FOR ANSWER

An Answer is a written response to the Complaint (Without Minor Children) to be completed by the Defendant to protect their rights. If the Defendant chooses to file an Answer, they must file it with the Clerk of Courts and serve it on the Plaintiff within 30 days after Defendant is served with the Summons and Complaint. There is a \$25 filing fee to file this responsive pleading. **If an Answer is not filed, the court may grant the Plaintiff everything requested in the Complaint and the Judge may enter a Default Judgement & Decree of Divorce.**

- **Complete this form in black ink only!**
- Complete the top portion of the Answer (the “caption”) just as it appears in the Summons and Complaint (Without Minor Children). **NOTE:** The caption is the top portion of each form. You will need to know the name of your county, judicial circuit (ask the clerk of court if you don’t know), name of Plaintiff, name of Defendant and case file number (ask the clerk of court if you don’t know). The caption is the same on every form.
- Answer or complete paragraphs 1-4. **You must respond to each paragraph of the Complaint (Without Minor Children). (You must Admit, Deny, Partially Admit or Deny, or State “I do not have enough information to respond to paragraph number \_\_\_\_ of the Complaint.”)**
- You must date and sign the Answer and provide your address and telephone number and complete the **Verification** portion. **But, do not sign the document in either spot until you are in the presence of a notary public or the clerk of court. Make sure to bring photo identification to show the notary public or clerk of court. A notary public can usually be found at the bank and sometimes at the courthouse.**
- Make 2 copies of the answer; one for your file and another to be served on the Plaintiff. The original must be filed with the clerk of court, along with the filing fee.

**WARNING: By signing your name, you are telling the court that you are telling the truth and that you have a good faith reason for your requests. If you are not telling the truth, if you are misleading the court, or if you are serving or filing this document for an improper purpose, the court could find you in contempt or you could be prosecuted for not telling the truth.**

### Affidavit of Mailing

You must prove to the Court that you mailed the Answer to the Plaintiff. This is done by completing the Affidavit Of Mailing Answer, which is a sworn statement, under oath, that the Defendant mailed the Answer to the Plaintiff on the date indicated at the correct address with the correct postage. The Affidavit is located immediately after the Answer in this form.

- The Affidavit of Service by Mail may only be completed after the papers/documents listed are placed in the United States Mail.
- Complete the top portion of the Answer (the “caption”) just as it appears in the Summons and

Complaint (Without Minor Children).

- Fill in the blanks as indicated on the Affidavit.
- Make a photocopy of the Affidavit for your file. The original must be filed with the clerk of court.  
**NOTE: You must sign and date the Affidavit in the presence of a notary public or clerk of court. Make sure to bring identification to show the notary public or clerk of court. A notary public can usually be found at any bank and, sometimes, at the courthouse.**

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN CIRCUIT COURT

COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

<div>_____ Plaintiff</div> <div>vs</div> <div>_____ Defendant</div>	<div>FILE NO: _____</div> <div><b>ANSWER</b></div>
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Defendant answers the Complaint as follows:

1. I **AGREE** with the following paragraphs of the Complaint (Without Minor Children):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

2. I **DISAGREE** with the following paragraphs of the Complaint (without Minor Children):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

3. I either **PARTIALLY Agree or Disagree** with the following paragraphs of the Complaint (Without Minor Children):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

4. I **DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION** to either agree or disagree with the following paragraphs of the Complaint (Without Minor Children):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

*If you wish to explain your answers to the previous statements, please use the space below. If you do not wish to explain your answers further, leave these spaces blank and sign the document; however, make sure you sign before a notary.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2.

3.

4.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant's Signature

Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**VERIFICATION**

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN CIRCUIT COURT

COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Defendant, being first duly sworn, deposes and states that he or she verifies the facts expressed within the Answer are true.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

Sworn/affirmed before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public/Clerk of Court

If Notary, my commission expires:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant's Signature

*(Date and sign in front of Notary Public/Clerk.)*

Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN CIRCUIT COURT

COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

<div style="text-align: right;">_____ Plaintiff</div> <div style="text-align: center;">vs</div> <div style="text-align: right;">_____ Defendant</div>	<div>FILE NO: _____</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><b>AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING ANSWER</b></div>
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I, \_\_\_\_\_, being sworn, state that on  
*(Full legal name of Defendant)*

\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, I served the Answer on the Plaintiff by  
placing a true and correct copy of the document in an envelope addressed to:

\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Full legal name of Plaintiff) (Plaintiff's mailing address)*

In the City of \_\_\_\_\_, State of \_\_\_\_\_, Zip

Code \_\_\_\_\_ and depositing the envelope, with sufficient postage, in the United States Mail

at \_\_\_\_\_.  
*(City and State mailed from)*

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant's Signature  
*(Date and sign in front of Notary Public/Clerk.)*

Sworn/affirmed before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public/Clerk of Court

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

If Notary, may commission expires:

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SEAL)

**\* You must sign and date the Affidavit in the presence of a notary public or Clerk of Court. Make sure to bring identification to show the notary public or Clerk of Court. A notary public can usually be found at the bank and sometimes at the courthouse!**

**\*The Affidavit of Mailing may be attached to the Notice of Summons & Complaint or may be filed separately. Ask the Clerk of Court which method they prefer.**