

Getting Help from a Judge: Filing a Motion

1. What is a motion?

A motion is a request of the judge for something.

2. Can't I just telephone the judge or write the judge a letter if I need some help?

No. Judges do not answer questions regarding pending cases that come in by telephone or letter or e-mail etc. Rather, to be fair to both sides, judges only answer questions that are properly put before them. In order to be "properly put before them" when a person involved in a divorce has a question for the judge, the person first creates and then files special papers telling the judge exactly what the person requests. These papers are called "a motion" or "motion papers". There are special rules that tell exactly how a motion must be put together and who must receive copies of the motion papers.

3. I need about fifteen things from the judge right now! Do I have to file fifteen motions?

No. The appropriate thing to do in this circumstance is to file one motion which asks for the fifteen separate items of help you require.

4. What types of things can I ask the judge for in my motion?

You can ask the judge for virtually anything that is fair, reasonable, and/or necessary under the circumstances of your case. For example, it is often appropriate to request assistance from a judge regarding issues involving child support, alimony, help with medical bills, help regarding visitation related issues, and virtually any other area the parties cannot agree.

Our law firm handles a significant number of divorce cases. Please feel free to [contact us](#) if we may be of service to you.

This article is not intended to be viewed as legal advice. Every case is different, and the reader should be advised to contact an attorney for complete legal advice on a given issue.

By: Steven J. Kaplan, Esq