

ANNULMENT

RESEARCH GUIDE

OVERVIEW

Florida does not have an annulment statute. Annulments are a matter of common law. The basic difference between a *divorce* and an *annulment* is that a divorce says *this marriage is broken*. An annulment says *there never was a marriage*.

A marriage may be annulled for a cause that has prevented the parties from contracting a valid marriage. For instance:

- One party was already married to another person
- One party is too young to get married
- The marriage is incestuous
- Lack of consent to marriage
- The invalidity of a marriage may arise from legal or mental incapacity because of physical incapacities or infirmities
- A marriage may be invalid because consent was wrongfully procured by force, duress, fraud, or concealment

RESOURCES IN THE VOLUSIA COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

Listed below are some resources available at the Daytona Beach and DeLand branches:

1. File for Divorce in Florida, Edward A. Haman, Sphinx Publishing
2. Florida Dissolution of Marriage, The Florida Bar/Lexis Nexis
3. Florida Family Law, Brenda M. Abrams, Matthew Bender
4. Florida Family Law & Practice, James Publishing

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

An action for annulment seeks a final judgment holding that the marriage is invalid. The plaintiff denies the validity of the marriage and asks for a judgment of annulment, having a marriage declared void by the court.

The rights and responsibilities of the parties whose marriage is terminated by a final judgment of dissolution of marriage may differ substantially from those of parties whose marriage is declared invalid by an annulment.

For an explanation on Annulment see Florida Dissolution of Marriage, Chapter 17. It includes examples of the forms needed to file an action for annulment. This resource is available in all three branches of the VCLL.

NOTICE: This research guide is based on information gathered from the resources cited above. For more information on this or other legal topics visit the nearest branch of the Volusia County Law Library.

IF YOU ARE ACTING AS YOUR OWN ATTORNEY, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING THAT INVOLVES YOUR CASE. Remember: Check with the Clerk of the Court for filing fees/court costs.