

APPENDIX 24.11: COURT-SPECIFIC RULES CONCERNING HEARINGS IN CHAMBERS IN FAMILY LAW PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO LA. R.S. 9:302

COURT	PARISHES	COURT-SPECIFIC RULES CONCERNING HEARINGS IN CHAMBERS IN FAMILY LAW PROCEEDINGS
1 st J.D.C.	Caddo Parish	<p style="text-align: center;">JUDGMENT OF DIVORCE IN CHAMBERS</p> <p>A. Confirmation of default judgments will be rendered in chambers on petitions for divorce only (no initial setting or modifications of alimony, custody or child support, although petition may include provisions maintaining a prior judgment of custody, child support, and other incidental relief) based on grounds of six months after physical separation (C.C. 103(1)).</p> <p>B. In accordance with the procedure set forth in C.C.P. 1701 & 1702, two (2) days exclusive of holidays after the entry of a preliminary default, the attorney may come to chambers at a time suggested by the judge and must bring:</p> <p>(1) Suit record from clerk's office, which must include:</p> <p>(a) Affidavit in accordance with the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act, and</p> <p>(b) Affidavit required by C.C.P. 1702(E) or verified petition;</p> <p>(2) Copy of cost print-out from clerk's office dated that morning;</p> <p>(3) Certified copy of minutes from clerk dated that morning; and</p> <p>(4) Original and one or more copies of proposed judgment signed by attorney for petitioner.</p> <p>C. Judgments on pleadings and summary judgments for divorce under C.C. Art. 103(1) will be rendered in accordance with the procedure in C.C.P. 969. After these conditions have been met, the attorney may come to chambers at a time suggested by the judge, and must bring the suit record from the clerk's office.</p> <p>D. In each instance, the judge will either render and sign the proposed judgment or direct that a hearing be held.</p> <p>E. Immediately after the judgment is signed, the attorney must take the judgment and all required supporting documents to the filing desk in the clerk's office (Counter 5) to have the judgment and other documents filed.</p>
2 nd J.D.C.	Bienville, Claiborne, and Jackson Parishes	A. In addition to any hearing otherwise authorized by law to be held in chambers, civil hearings before the trial court in

		<p>separation and divorce proceedings may be held in chambers in those instances where good cause is shown and with the mutual consent of the parties. These hearings shall include the contested and uncontested proceedings in rules for alimony, child support, visitation, injunctions or other matters provisional and incidental to separation and divorce proceedings.</p> <p>B. A motion for hearing in chambers pursuant to this Section may be made by either party or upon the court's own motion.</p> <p>C. Except for being closed to the public, the hearings held in chambers pursuant to this rule shall be conducted in the same manner as if taking place in open court. The minute clerk and the court reporter shall be present if necessary to perform the duties provided by law. (LSA-R.S. 9:314)</p>
3 rd J.D.C.	Lincoln and Union Parishes	<p>In accordance with Act 872 of the 1988 Regular Session of the Louisiana legislature, upon consent of counsel, domestic matters including divorce, separation, child custody, child support, visitation and alimony cases as well as directly related matters may be heard in closed hearing. In contested cases, the consent shall be in writing or of record in open court. In cases involving a confirmation of default, the original petition served shall contain an article noting that plaintiff will seek a closed hearing. Any such hearing shall be a matter of record. The record of testimony shall be maintained in accordance with the practice of maintaining confidential records of this court.</p>
6 th J.D.C.	East Carroll, Madison, and Tensas Parishes	<p>A. In addition to any hearing otherwise authorized by law to be held in chambers, the court, at its discretion may, with mutual consent of the parties, hold hearings in divorce proceedings in chambers. Such hearings shall include contested and uncontested proceedings and rules for spousal support, child support, visitation, injunctions, or other matters provisional and incidental to separation and divorce proceedings.</p> <p>B. A motion for hearing in chambers pursuant to this Rule may be made by either party or upon the court's own motion.</p> <p>C. Except for being closed to the public, the hearings held in chambers pursuant to this Rule shall be conducted in the same manner as if taking place in open court. The minute clerk and court reporter shall be present if necessary to perform the duties provided by law.</p>
7 th J.D.C.	Catahoula and Concordia Parishes	<p>A. Pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. 9:302 the court may in those instances where good cause is shown and provided that there is mutual consent of all parties, civil hearings and divorce proceedings before the trial court may be held in chambers. Such hearings shall include contested and uncontested proceedings and rules for spousal support, child support, visitation, injunctions, and other matters provisional and incidental to divorce proceedings.</p>

		<p>B. A motion for hearing in chambers pursuant to this rule may be made by either party or upon the court's own motion. Except for being closed to public the hearings held in chambers pursuant to this rule shall be conducted in the same manner as if taking place in open court. The minute clerk and court reporter shall be present if necessary to perform the duties provided by law.</p>
15 th J.D.C.	<p>Acadia, Lafayette, and Vermilion Parishes</p> <p>Amended October 30, 2015, effective October 1, 2015.</p>	<p>A. Upon a showing of good cause, with mutual consent, hearings before the Court in divorce proceedings may be held in chambers in accordance with La. R.S. 9:302. Such hearings shall include contested and uncontested proceedings and rules for spousal support, child support, visitation, injunctions, or other matters provisional and incidental to divorce proceedings.</p> <p>B. Confirmation of divorce under C.C. Art. 103 (1) and (5) may be accomplished by affidavit in accordance with C.C.P. Art. 1702E. In such instances, the mover's attorney shall complete the Default Confirmation under the Appendix 27.3 C.C.P. Art 1702E checklist. The checklist and affidavit must accompany the filing of the Judgment of Divorce.</p>
21 st J.D.C.	<p>Livingston, St. Helena, and Tangipahoa Parishes</p>	<p>Judgments of Divorce in Chambers Under LA. Code Civ. Proc. Art. 1702E</p> <p>A. Where good cause is shown, all parties consent thereto, and with the permission of the court, any hearing in a divorce proceeding, including contested and uncontested rules for spousal support, child support, visitation, injunction, or other matters provisional and incidental to divorce proceedings, may be conducted in chambers rather than open court.</p> <p>B. A motion requesting such a proceeding be conducted in chambers may be made by either party, or upon the court's own motion.</p>
22 nd J.D.C.	<p>St. Tammany and Washington Parishes</p>	<p>A. Judgments of Divorce in Chambers pursuant to La. Code Civ. Proc. Art. 1702(E): Confirmation of a default judgment of divorce under La. C.C. Art. 103(1) may also be accomplished by affidavit in accordance with La. Code Civ. Proc. Art. 1702E. In such instances, the mover and/or mover's attorney shall complete the appropriate divorce checklist (<i>See</i> Appendix 28.1B). The appropriate checklist and affidavit must accompany the filing of the Judgment of Divorce.</p> <p>1. Summary Judgment of Divorce in Chambers pursuant to La. Code Civ. Proc. Art. 969(B): A Judgment of Divorce under La. Civil Code Art. 103(1) may be accomplished in accordance with La. Code Civ. Proc. Art. 969(B). In such instances, the attorney for one of the parties shall complete the appropriate divorce checklist (<i>See</i> Appendix 28.2 B). The appropriate checklist must accompany the filing of the Judgment of Divorce.</p>

24 th J.D.C.	Jefferson Parish	<p>A. Judgments of Divorce in Chambers Pursuant to La. C.C.P. Art. 1702E:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The domestic commissioner may confirm all preliminary defaults under La. C.C. Art. 103 in accordance with La. C.C.P. Art. 1702E. 2. To confirm a preliminary default under La. C.C. Art. 103(1) and La. C.C.P. Art. 1702(E), petitioner shall submit to the commissioner in chambers or in open court: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The complete record; b) Affidavit of non-military service and non-covenant marriage; c) An affidavit executed by the petitioner within thirty (30) days of rendering the judgment attesting to facts sufficient to obtain a divorce. One affidavit containing all required facts may be submitted in lieu of multiple affidavits. d) The original and one or more copies of the proposed judgment; e) Notation from the clerk of court that no answer has been filed and that all costs have been paid. (f) Certification by the petitioner which shall indicate the type and date of service made on the defendant and the date on which the preliminary default was entered. 3. Nothing herein shall preclude the petitioner from proving his/her case by live testimony. 4. Confirmation of default judgments maybe rendered in chambers on petitions for divorce in accordance with the requirements of this subpart. <p>B. Summary Judgment of Divorce in Chambers Pursuant to La. C.C. Art. 103(1) and La. C.C.P. Art. 969</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If all parties are represented by counsel, and an answer has been filed, the petitioner or defendant in an uncontested case, shall submit to the court: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A written joint stipulation of facts, request for judgment, and a sworn verification by each party; b. A proposed judgment containing a certification that counsel and each party agree to the terms thereof; c. The complete record.
27 th J.D.C.	St. Landry Parish	Divorce cases, and related matters provisional and incidental thereto, may be held in chambers with the mutual consent of

		the parties. A motion for a hearing in chambers may be made by either party or on the Court's own motion.
Civil District Court	Orleans Parish	Hearings may be held in chambers in accord with R.S. 9:302.