

MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

BEST PRACTICES FOR SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT OF DIVORCE DECREE (FM-171) FOR CLERK CERTIFICATION

When submitting an Abstract of Divorce Decree (FM-171) for certification by a court clerk, keep the following best practices in mind:

- The following information must be included on the Abstract of Divorce Decree (FM-171):
 - The number of pages of the judgment that are attached and incorporated;
 - The date of the judgment; and
 - Whether there has been a change of name for one or more parties.
- Do not submit the entire divorce judgment for attachment and incorporation with FM-171. Attach only the page(s) of the judgment that detail the real estate award.
- It is recommended that you redact any information on the submitted pages of the divorce judgment not related to the real estate award before you file it with the Registry of Deeds. The pages of the divorce judgment may be submitted to the court for the clerk's signature unredacted, but the court clerk will not redact the unrelated information.
- The second page of FM-171 must be included when the abstract of divorce decree is submitted for certification by the clerk and when it is submitted to the Registry of Deeds. The Registry of Deeds may reject the abstract if this page is not included.
- The court clerk will not accept payment for the recording of the abstract of divorce decree, and will not mail the abstract directly to the Registry of Deeds. Once the court clerk has completed certification of the abstract, the clerk will mail the certified abstract back to the person who submitted it for certification so that that person may record it directly with the Registry of Deeds.

ADA Notice: The Maine Judicial Branch complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need a reasonable accommodation contact the Court Access Coordinator, accessibility@courts.maine.gov, or a court clerk.

Language Services: For language assistance and interpreters, contact a court clerk or interpreters@courts.maine.gov.