

## Documentation Required of Peace Corps Applicants Who Have Been Divorced

The Peace Corps is not able to accept individuals who have ongoing legal or financial responsibilities which they would be unable to honor while serving in the Peace Corps. Because of this policy, persons who have been divorced are required to establish that they do not have any such responsibilities. Peace Corps Manual Section 201, Paragraph 305.2(3) states:

"Applicants who have been divorced must provide Placement with copies of all legal documents related to the divorce."

In order to establish eligibility for invitation to Peace Corps training, applicants who have been divorced must provide the following documentation for **each divorce** regardless of the time elapsed since the divorce.

- a copy of the final divorce decree signed by the presiding official.
- copies of any other documents incorporated in the final decree by reference, such as property settlement agreements, marital settlement agreements, etc.
- copies of any court-ordered modifications of the decree and/or its attachments.

All document copies must show signatures. File copies sent to you before the decree or settlement agreement was signed are not acceptable. The copies must be complete and legible. If the decree lists other "one-time obligations," such as cash payments or delivery of other assets, you must certify that these obligations have been fulfilled.

Placement's Legal Eligibility Specialist will review these documents to ascertain if you have any legal obligations, financial or other, which cannot or will not be satisfied before your earliest availability date. If either the decree or its attachments note ongoing obligations, such as alimony payments or child support payments, you must also provide proof that you have made arrangements to fulfill the obligations, and that the arrangements are satisfactory to the person(s) to whom you owe the obligation(s). In the case of a former spouse, this can usually be done by obtaining a signed statement, authenticated by a notary public, from that person and submitting it with a cover letter from you detailing the arrangements. If minor children are involved, the statement should be signed by the individual with **legal custody** of the minors.

If you no longer have or cannot find a copy of the documents, you can obtain them by writing to the clerk of the court in the county where the divorce was decreed. All such judgments are kept on file. Since it may take several weeks for the copies to be sent, please request them right away. If the decree was granted in a foreign country, you should also provide an accurate translation. The Peace Corps reserves the right to require additional documentation or certification in appropriate cases.

Please take the time to read your divorce decree before mailing it. Ensure that all relevant documents are included and that you have arranged to satisfy your obliga-

tions. You will not be certified as eligible for invitation until Placement is satisfied that you have done so.

If you have questions, or if you no longer possess the required documents and they are not available from the clerk of court in the county where the divorce was decreed, please call the Legal Eligibility Specialist at: (800) 424-8580, extension 1845, or (202) 692-1845 in the Washington, D.C. area.