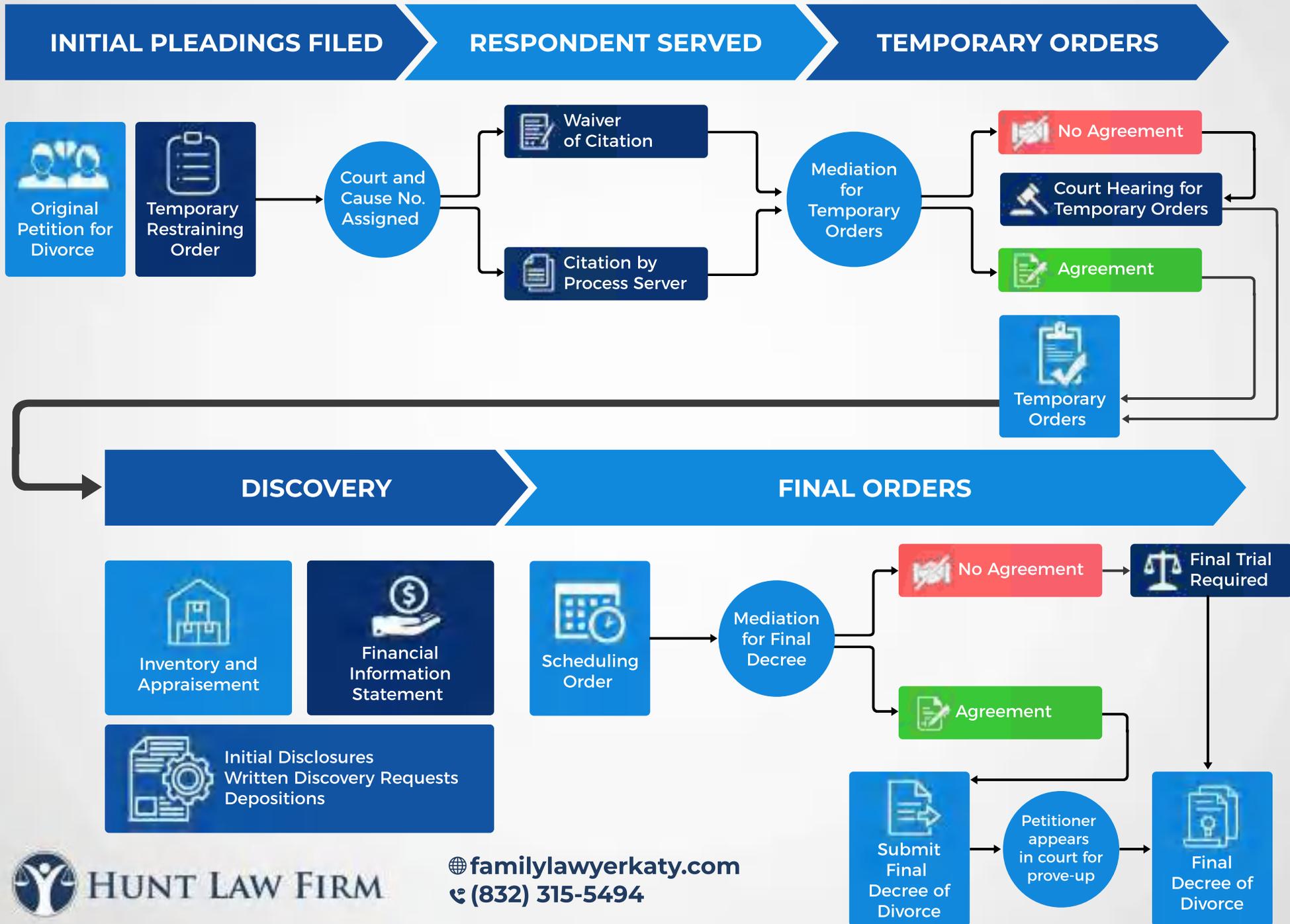


TEXAS DIVORCE PROCESS



CONTESTED DIVORCE IN TEXAS

TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW



AGREED FINAL DECREE

We will confer with your spouse's attorney to negotiate final orders and then collaborate to draft a final decree for the judge to sign.



AGREED TEMPORARY ORDERS

We will confer with your spouse's attorney to try to negotiate temporary orders and draft an agreed order for the judge to sign. These orders are typically effective the length of the divorce proceeding and relate to temporary possession of property, custody of children, child support, and spousal support.



CITATION BY PROCESS SERVER

If your spouse will not sign a waiver or does not know about the divorce, our process server can serve him/her with the necessary documents.



COURT HEARING FOR TEMPORARY ORDERS

If no agreement is reached, we will present your case at a hearing and the judge will decide appropriate orders.



DISCOVERY

Discovery requests are legal tools used to obtain information from your spouse or outside witnesses. Discovery may not be necessary in all cases. Discovery tools include depositions, requests for production, interrogatories, and requests for admissions.



FINAL DECREE

The judge will sign the final decree and related documents, the decree will be entered, and the divorce will be finalized.



FINAL TRIAL

If an agreement is not reached, we will present your case to a judge or jury. The judge or jury will decide on the appropriate final orders.



MEDIATION FOR FINAL DECREE

Mediation may be necessary so an agreement can be worked out on complex issues like division of property, child custody, etc. Mediation is more cost effective than trial. It is required by most courts prior to a final trial.



MEDIATION FOR TEMPORARY ORDERS

Mediation may be necessary so an agreement can be worked out, especially if temporary custody of the children or possession of property are contested. Most courts require mediation before a hearing.



PETITION FOR DIVORCE

We will draft an Original Petition or, if you were served, an Original Answer and Counterpetition.



TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

We may also draft a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO). A TRO is an order signed by the judge that enjoins you and your spouse from damaging behaviors that could hurt you, your property, or your children. It lasts for 14 days and can be extended for another 14 days.



WAIVER OF CITATION

If your spouse knows about the divorce and is agreeable to signing a waiver of formal service, we can draft a waiver and meet with him/her in our office to sign the notarized waiver.