Can I file a divorce in Korea?
You can get a divorce in Korea **ONLY** if both spouses are available and willing to appear in the Korean Family Court. Even if you did not get married in Korea, you can file for a divorce as long as **BOTH SPOUSES** can and will appear in the Korean Family Court.

What types of divorces are available in Korea?
Uncontested: Both spouses want to get the divorced and will be present in Court for the divorce hearing.

Contested: A divorce becomes a contest under any of the following circumstances: one party wants the divorce and the other does not, the spouses cannot agree on custody and/or support, the spouses cannot agree how to divide marital property

What is the difference between a contested and uncontested divorce?
The uncontested divorce will cost less than 50,000 Won. While the actual decree is mailed several days after the hearing, the divorce is final from the date the judge granted the divorce.

For an uncontested divorce, both spouses will have to hire an attorney, which can cost between 4 to 5 million Won. A year will likely pass before the judge grants a hearing. If one spouse appeals the judgment, the appeal can add another 6 to 12 months to the procedure. Hence, a contested divorce can take up to three years to finalize in Korea. Will you be here all that time?

What is the divorce procedure?
Contested divorce:
If you have to pursue a contested divorce, hire a Korean attorney. He/She will guide you through the Korean divorce procedure. However, before pursuing a contested divorce in Korea, talk to a Legal Assistance Attorney regarding alternatives

Uncontested divorce:
Before pursuing a divorce in Korea, make an appointment to speak with the SOFA advisor at Camp Casey or CRC.

You and your spouse should resolve all issues regarding custody, visitation, support, property division, etc. before meeting with the SOFA advisor.

The SOFA advisor will provide additional information about the divorce process and the information needed to get a divorce.

- You will need to take $50,000 Won. You will need to convert cash to Won before appearing in court.
- You will need your military identification card.
- If your spouse is a foreign national, he/she will need to take his/her passport to the family court.

- If your spouse is a Korean National, he/she will need a Family Census Register, Korean I.D. and Name Stamp.
- If your marriage certificate is not written in Korean (Hangul), you must have it translated before going to the Korean Family Court. Contact the Legal Assistance Office for a list of local translators.
- If you have KATUSA Soldiers assigned to your unit, speak with your chain of command about allowing one to accompany you to the Korean Family Court. You will need someone to translate for you and the judge.

Korean Family Court Information

- When you appear in the Korean Family Court, be prepared for the judge to interview both spouses to ensure both parties want the divorce and that there are no unresolved marital issues.
- After the interview, the judge will verbally grant the divorce then mail the decree several days later.
- Once the Soldier receives the decree, it must be translated to English. Use the same translator you used to translate the marriage certificate.
- If your spouse is a Korean National, he/she should report the divorce to the city hall where he/she registered his/her family census register within two months.
- Once the judgment has been translated, the Soldier must take it to finance, DEERS, Tricare among other places to have his former spouse removed from the military database.

The hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 0900 to 1800. You must arrive at the court no later than 1500 (at least three hours before closing) to ensure that the judge has enough time to hear the facts and issue your divorce.

The Phone number to the Seoul Family Court is (02) 530 1114 or (02) 530 2462-3.

How do I get a copy of my Korean Divorce Decree?

The Clerk of Court will mail a divorce decree to you three days after the hearing.

To get another copy, you must write to the court that issued your divorce. You must also include a certified check or money order for $3.00, made payable to the Family Court concerned. Be sure to include complete the docket number, decree date, location, and court name with your certified check or money order.

If the divorce decree will be submitted to a court in the US, it must be translated to English.