

Redacted Family-Law Matter

Critical Issues

1. Confirmed defect — Confidential FL-140 is embedded in the proposed court-filing PDF

Form/page: Check Default.pdf, page 20 (FL-140), in the same 20-page PDF as the filing documents

Issue: The merged PDF includes the Declaration of Disclosure (FL-140), even though the form itself states “DO NOT FILE DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSURE OR FINANCIAL ATTACHMENTS WITH THE COURT.” If the 20-page PDF is uploaded as a single filing, FL-140 will be placed in the public court submission with the default papers.

Why it matters: This creates an immediate filing-disposition and confidentiality risk and may publicly disclose client-only financial-service material. It also makes the filing packet inconsistent with the mandatory form instruction.

Fix: Remove page 20 from every public filing PDF. Keep FL-140 and its financial attachments in a separate private service set. File only the completed FL-141 as proof of disclosure service. Also upload each lead filing and the proposed judgment/attachments under the document type required by the e-filing system rather than submitting this 20-page mixed-purpose PDF as one document.

Authority/verification: [Family Code § 2104\(b\)](#); [official FL-141 instruction](#).

High-Priority Issues

2. Confirmed defect — FL-141 omits the date of preliminary-disclosure service

Form/page: FL-141, page 1, item 2 and signature block (Check Default.pdf, page 5)

Issue: Item 2 states that petitioner’s preliminary disclosure package was served by mail on the other party, but the required “on (date)” field is blank. The FL-141 is also unsigned and undated, which is acceptable only until final execution; the service date itself must reflect an act that already occurred.

Why it matters: The court cannot verify completion and timing of the mandatory preliminary disclosure, and California Courts states that a default judgment cannot be processed without FL-141.

Fix: Complete service of the full preliminary-disclosure set first. Then enter the actual mailing date in item 2 and have [CLIENT NAME REDACTED] date and sign the FL-141. Do not date or sign it before the stated service occurs.

Authority/verification: [California Courts default instructions](#); [Family Code § 2104](#).

3. Verification required — Preliminary-disclosure service set is incomplete and internally inconsistent

Form/page: FL-140, page 1, caption and items 1–6 (Check Default.pdf, page 20); FL-141, item 2 (page 5)

Issue: FL-140 checks that an FL-142, FL-150, and all tax returns filed during the two years before service are attached, but the upload contains no FL-142 or tax returns. It identifies “[TAX YEARS REDACTED] Tax Forms,” although a current-year income-tax return ordinarily cannot yet have been filed in the review date. Items 4–6, which address valuation facts, community obligations, and qualifying income-producing opportunities, are not checked or accompanied by statements. FL-140 also uses the former [ADDRESS REDACTED] address even though MC-040 states that [ADDRESS REDACTED] became the new address on [STATEMENT DATE REDACTED].

Why it matters: An incomplete or inaccurate preliminary disclosure can block the default judgment and create later enforceability or set-aside risk. The old address also makes the unsigned service document inconsistent with the current packet.

Fix: Confirm the exact disclosure materials actually to be served. Replace “[TAX YEARS REDACTED] Tax Forms” with the actual returns filed during the two years before the service date; include the checked FL-142 (or correctly select and include FL-160), current FL-150, required statements, and supporting financial records. Update the FL-140 caption to the current address before execution. If these materials exist outside the upload, verify that the private service set contains them and that FL-141 item 2 describes that same set.

Authority/verification: [Family Code § 2104\(a\), \(c\), and \(e\).](#); [Kern disclosure packet](#).

4. Confirmed defect — Required FL-157 is missing for termination of respondent’s spousal support

Form/page: FL-170, page 2, item 8(c) (Check Default.pdf, page 7); FL-180, page 2, item 4(l)(2) (page 16)

Issue: The packet asks the court to terminate spousal-support jurisdiction for both parties, including the respondent, but no Spousal or Partner Support Declaration Attachment (FL-157) is included.

Why it matters: The Judicial Council judgment checklist calls for FL-157 when termination of spousal/partner support for the respondent is requested. Its absence may prevent the requested support disposition or delay entry of judgment.

Fix: Complete and attach FL-157 to FL-170, or have the attorney/filer verify and revise the requested support disposition if termination is not the intended relief.

Authority/verification: [Judgment Checklist FL-182, page 2, items o–p](#).

5. Verification required — Filed FL-160 cannot be reviewed and “no changes” cannot be confirmed

Form/page: Court Accepted FL-100, FL-160 [CLIENT NAME REDACTED].pdf, pages 2–7; FL-165, page 1, item 3(a) (Check Default.pdf, page 9); FL-170, page 1, item 4(a)(3)(B) (page 6)

Issue: The reference PDF is structurally damaged: only page 1 renders; page 2 is a solid gray image and pages 3–7 are blank/unreadable. Those pages appear intended to contain the remainder of the filed FL-100 and the filed FL-160. The current FL-165 states that FL-160 is not attached because there have been no changes, while FL-170 relies on a completed current FL-160.

Why it matters: In a default, property relief is limited to property disclosed in the petition or in an FL-160 that was filed and served. Without a readable filed FL-160, the reviewer cannot confirm that the [RETIREMENT ACCOUNT REDACTED] account, [DEBT DESCRIPTION REDACTED], proposed awards, or “no changes” statement match the filed and served property request.

Fix: Obtain a complete readable court-accepted copy of FL-100 pages 2–3 and FL-160 pages 1–4, then compare every asset, debt, value, acquisition date, characterization, and proposed award against FL-345. If anything changed, attach and file/serve an updated FL-160 and correct FL-165 item 3.

Authority/verification: [California Courts default-property instructions](#).; [FL-160 instructions in Kern disclosure packet](#).

6. Verification required — [RETIREMENT ACCOUNT REDACTED] account is characterized as community property despite post-separation acquisition date

Form/page: FL-345, page 1, item 1(d) (Check Default.pdf, page 17); filed FL-100, page 1, item 3(a) (readable reference page 1)

Issue: The filed petition shows a [CASE DATE REDACTED] separation date. FL-345 places a [RETIREMENT ACCOUNT REDACTED] retirement/pension account acquired [CASE DATE REDACTED] in the community-property division and awards it to respondent. The packet does not explain whether any part of the account is traceable to pre-separation service or community contributions.

Why it matters: Post-separation earnings and accumulations are generally separate property. A community-property order based on the entire gross value may mischaracterize the asset or exceed the property that may be divided in default.

Fix: Attorney/filer should verify the legal characterization and the community/separate portions, if any. Correct FL-345 to place the asset in the proper community or separate-property section and ensure the readable filed/served FL-160 supports the requested treatment.

Authority/verification: [Family Code § 771\(a\)](#).

7. Verification required — Proposed property/debt allocation is not reconciled to the financial declaration

Form/page: FL-170, page 1, item 4(a)(3)(B) (Check Default.pdf, page 6); FL-345, pages 1–2 (pages 17–18); FL-150, page 3, item 14 (page 13)

Issue: FL-170 declares that the proposed division is fair and equal, or that a negative estate is assigned fairly and equitably. FL-345 gives petitioner no assets or debts and gives respondent a [AMOUNT REDACTED] retirement asset and a [AMOUNT REDACTED] [DEBT DESCRIPTION REDACTED]. FL-150 separately lists [AMOUNT REDACTED] [CREDIT ACCOUNT REDACTED] and [AMOUNT REDACTED] [CREDIT ACCOUNT REDACTED] balances that do not appear in FL-345. The packet does not establish whether the card balances are separate/post-separation debts, whether the [DEBT DESCRIPTION REDACTED] is an education loan assigned under Family Code section 2641, or whether the filed FL-160 includes all three debts.

Why it matters: If the omitted card balances are community obligations, the proposed judgment is incomplete. If the listed [DEBT DESCRIPTION REDACTED] or retirement account is mischaracterized, the requested division and FL-170 declaration may be inaccurate.

Fix: Attorney/filer should verify the characterization and requested disposition of every listed debt and asset. Reconcile FL-150, the readable filed/updated FL-160, and FL-345. Add omitted community items or identify them as separate property/debt in the proper section; revise the fairness declaration if the supporting facts do not permit it.

Authority/verification: [Family Code § 2641\(b\)\(2\)](#).; [California Courts default-property limits](#).

8. Confirmed defect — Proposed judgment has an incomplete termination date and attachment count

Form/page: FL-180, page 1, item 4(a)(1), and page 2, item 5 (Check Default.pdf, pages 15–16)

Issue: Item 4(a)(1) is checked, but the date on which marital status will terminate is blank. Item 5 also leaves the number of attached pages blank even though the two-page FL-345 is attached to and incorporated into the judgment.

Why it matters: The proposed judgment does not state a complete status-termination order or accurately identify its attachments, which may delay entry or produce an incomplete order.

Fix: Confirm the requested lawful termination date and enter it in item 4(a)(1). Based on service on [SERVICE DATE REDACTED], the earliest date appears to be [ELIGIBILITY DATE REDACTED], subject to the court's calculation and any extension; attorney/filer should verify. Enter "2" in item 5 unless additional judgment attachments are added.

Authority/verification: [Family Code § 2339\(a\)](#).; [California Courts FL-180 information](#).

Medium-Priority Issues

9. Confirmed defect — Required recent pay stubs and income proof are absent

Form/page: FL-150, pages 1–2, attachment instructions (Check Default.pdf, pages 11–12)

Issue: FL-150 directs the filer to attach pay stubs for the last two months and proof of other income, but none are included in the upload.

Why it matters: The financial showing supporting termination of spousal support is incomplete and may be returned for correction or found insufficient.

Fix: Attach legible pay stubs for the two months immediately preceding execution and proof of any other income. Black out Social Security numbers and other unnecessary account identifiers before filing or service.

Authority/verification: [current FL-150](#); [FL-182 current-financial-declaration requirement](#).

10. Verification required — Reported work hours, hourly rate, and monthly wages do not reconcile

Form/page: FL-150, page 1, item 1(g)–(h), and page 2, item 5(a)–(b) (Check Default.pdf, pages 11–12)

Issue: The form reports about [WORK SCHEDULE REDACTED] at [RATE REDACTED] per hour. That equals approximately [AMOUNT REDACTED] gross per month before any overtime premium, but the form reports [AMOUNT REDACTED] average monthly wages plus [AMOUNT REDACTED] average overtime ([AMOUNT REDACTED] total). Last month is reported as [AMOUNT REDACTED] wages plus [AMOUNT REDACTED] overtime ([AMOUNT REDACTED] total).

Why it matters: The discrepancy may make the current income declaration appear inaccurate and may affect the court’s review of the requested support termination.

Fix: Recalculate items 1(g)–(h) and 5(a)–(b) from the most recent pay stubs and the full prior 12 months. Correct either the stated hours, rate, or monthly figures and ensure the attached pay records support the final amounts.

Authority/verification: [current FL-150 calculation instructions](#).

Low-Priority Issues

11. Confirmed defect — Third-party preparation declaration contains caption and proofreading errors

Form/page: In Pro Per Declaration, pages 1–2 (Check Default.pdf, pages 1–2)

Issue: The caption uses “IN RE OF,” item 8 spells “Judgment” as “Judgement,” and page 2 states that “the amount of compensation ... were [AMOUNT REDACTED] fees,” which has subject-verb and wording errors. The caption also uses “VS” rather than a conventional family-law case caption.

Why it matters: These errors reduce professional presentation and create avoidable ambiguity in a declaration submitted under penalty of perjury.

Fix: Revise the caption to match the filed family-law caption and case title exactly. Change “Judgement” to “Judgment” and rewrite the compensation sentence for grammatical accuracy without changing the stated [AMOUNT REDACTED] amount.

Correction Checklist

- ☐ Remove FL-140 from the public filing PDF and keep the disclosure documents in a separate private service set.
- ☐ After completing disclosure service, enter the actual service date on FL-141 and obtain [CLIENT NAME REDACTED]'s dated signature.
- ☐ Complete and reconcile the FL-140 service set, including the correct tax returns, selected property schedule, required statements, and current address.
- ☐ Complete and attach FL-157 or revise the requested spousal-support disposition after attorney/filer review.
- ☐ Obtain a readable court-accepted FL-100 and FL-160 and verify the "no changes" statement and all requested default relief.
- ☐ Verify and correct the community or separate-property characterization of the post-separation [RETIREMENT ACCOUNT REDACTED] account.
- ☐ Reconcile the [RETIREMENT ACCOUNT REDACTED] account, [DEBT DESCRIPTION REDACTED], and credit-card balances across FL-150, FL-160, FL-170, and FL-345.
- ☐ Complete the FL-180 marital-status termination date and the number of attached judgment pages.
- ☐ Attach redacted pay stubs for the last two months and proof of any other income to FL-150.
- ☐ Recalculate and correct the FL-150 work-hours, hourly-rate, and monthly-income figures.
- ☐ Correct the caption, "Judgment" spelling, and compensation sentence in the third-party preparation declaration.