

If the committee on standing orders reports to the House that all the orders have been complied with, the Bill is presented in the House by a Senator, and submitted to its first reading.

The second reading of the Bill cannot take place until fourteen days after the first reading; and notice of such second reading, is to be affixed to the doors of the Senate during the period, and a copy thereof and of the Bill, duly served upon the party from whom the Divorce is sought, and proof on oath of such service adduced at the Bar of the Senate, before proceeding to the second reading, or sufficient proof adduced of the impossibility of complying with the rule.

The copy of the notice of the second reading and of the Bill for service should each be signed by the clerk of the House. The person making the service should of course be provided with duplicates signed in the same way. As in the case of the service of the notice of application, there are precedents for substitutional service. Where the service has been personal, the person making service gives evidence of it at the Bar of the Senate. Substitutional service is usually proved by statutory declaration.

The terms of Rule 76 being thus complied with, Rule 77 requires the petitioner to appear below the Bar of the Senate at the second reading to be examined by the Senate, either generally, or as to any collusion, or connivance between the parties to obtain such separation, unless the Senate think fit to dispense therewith. Counsel usually accompanies the petitioner at this stage. The practice is to suspend this rule and instruct a select committee, which hears the evidence, to ask the necessary questions.

The Bill is then referred to a select committee of nine members, by whom the witnesses are heard on oath, the evidence taken down in writing and reported to the Senate with all vouchers adduced before the Senate; the preliminary evidence being that of the due celebration of the marriage between the parties by legitimate testimony either by witnesses present at the marriage, or by complete and satisfactory proof of the certificate of the officiating minister or authority.