

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA
Supreme Court Cause No. 25-0587

Christine P. Lee French
Petitioner/Appellant, Pro Se
cricket.b.comm@protonmail.com

FAX - FILED

FEB 18 2026

Bowen Greenwood
Clerk of Supreme Court
State of Montana

<p>IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF</p> <p>Christine P. Lee French, <i>Petitioner/Appellant,</i></p> <p>and</p> <p>Bayne A. Lee French, <i>Respondent/Appellee</i></p>	<p>APPELLANT'S MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE RESPONSE TO APPELLEE'S MOTION TO DISMISS</p>
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Appellant, Christine French, pro se, moves for an extension of time, pursuant to Rule 26, M. R. App. P., in which to prepare, serve, and file the Response to Bayne's motion to dismiss. Appellant requests that the due date be extended by 3 days to and including February 20, 2026.

This motion is supported by the Affidavit of Christine French.

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

Whether good cause has been shown by motion under Rule 26(1) and the Court permits Christine to file a Response to Bayne's Motion to Dismiss 3 days after the 11-day time period prescribed by Rule 16.

ARGUMENT AND SUPPORTING AUTHORITY

Appellant is a self-represented party in this matter involving challenges to the District Court's denial of her Rule 60(b) motion. Fundamental rights are at issue arising from the dissolution of a 24-year marriage, during which she was a homemaker and full-time parent for the majority of the marriage in which Christine asks the court for the heightened level of scrutiny required. Appellant has been working diligently on the Response but requires additional time due to extra time related to safety and privacy concerns arising from the Motion to Dismiss. Due to her pro se status, consequences of the divorce and trauma-related limitations it took longer than the rule time period to figure out how to properly complete and file a Response with the necessary important information.

Requests for extension of time are governed by Rule 26, which requires compliance with Rule 16 (statement of the issue, a brief argument with supporting

authority, and a statement of the relief sought).

As set forth in the supporting affidavit, Appellant requires and requests a short 3-day extension to complete, serve and file the document. The requested 3-day extension is short and does not materially affect Appellee as the briefing schedule does not change because it has already been set by court order and no reply is allowed by the Montana Rule of Appellate Procedure. Because of the statutory rights and constitutional guarantees involved, Christine asks the Court to find that filing her Response 3 days after the 11 days in Rule 16 is excusable under the circumstances and to permit Christine to complete, serve and file the Response on or before February 20, 2026.

RELIEF SOUGHT

Appellant requests that the Court enter an Order:

- (1) Extending the Response deadline by 3 days to and including February 20, 2026;
- and
- (2) Granting such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

DATED February 17, 2026.



Christine P. Lee French
Appellant, Pro Se

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Appellant has moved for an extension of time to file her Response.

Upon review, **IT IS ORDERED** that the motion is **GRANTED**.

Appellant shall prepare, file, and serve her Response on or before **Friday, February 20, 2026**.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have filed a true and accurate copy of the foregoing **MOTION** with the Clerk of the Montana Supreme Court via facsimile on the 17th day of February, 2026 at 6:30pm and that I have served true and accurate copies of the foregoing **MOTION** upon counsel for Appellee by U.S. Mail, first-class, postage prepaid, addressed to:

Johnson-Gilchrist Law Firm
Attn: Terin Riley
Attorney for Appellee
6336 US Hwy South
Whitefish MT 59937

Earlier today, around 4:50pm I filed the Affidavit in Support of this Motion for Extension. (I failed to include the Motion part in the fax package).

Dated this 17th day of Feb, 2026.



Christine P. Lee French
Appellant, Pro Se