What is the difference between a divorce certificate and a divorce decree?

A **divorce decree** is a document prepared by the court, setting forth the terms and conditions of the divorce. It is signed by a judge and filed with the county clerk of the county where the divorce decree was issued.

A divorce certificate is a document issued by the State Department of Health confirming the fact of divorce granted on or after a certain date. The divorce certificate contains basic information about the husband, wife, and the date and place where the marriage ended.