

Family Lawyer Advice: First Steps In A Divorce

by Jacqueline Brewster

One's wedding is probably the happiest moment in a person's life. That is why the word 'divorce' is most certainly the last thing he or she thinks of on that special day.

But things do not always turn out to be as great as one wants, things can go really bad between the spouses and marriage becomes the last thing that a person wants to be involved in. Therefore, divorce seems the best solution in that circumstance. The motifs why people may want a divorce are many. The most common are infidelity and lack of communication. Then there are the other reasons such as: physical abuse, personality differences (irreconcilable differences), financial problems, sexual incompatibility, abandonment, incarceration, drug addiction, etc.

You have tried everything to keep your marriage working – therapy, mediation, counseling, etc., especially if there are children in the middle, but your hardest efforts to work things out with your husband or wife have led nowhere and you feel that your marriage can no longer be saved. Nonetheless, if you want to stay in a resentful marriage only for your children's sake, this is not the best choice, neither for you, nor for your children. Your spouse and you will eventually fight and they will inevitably be exposed to your quarrels, witnesses to all the drama between you two. And of course they do not deserve any of that... and neither do you.

If one feels that getting a divorce is the answer, he or she should know what steps there are in a divorce. Getting a divorce will not solve all your problems. A divorce can be a traumatic experience, time-consuming and really expensive both financially and emotionally. Therefore, the first step is to be completely sure that you want to go on with this.

If you still want to go forward, then the second step to take is to find a good marital lawyer, one that has experience with divorces. It is not such a good idea to try to be your own lawyer, even if you think that this will save you time and money. The majority of divorces can get complicated – division of the marital goods, custody of children and visiting hours, etc. Therefore, you should find yourself a good lawyer to help you during this process.

The third step is to gather all the documents that you will need to provide your lawyer with. You have to get organized as soon as possible as your lawyer will need personal data, such as full names, full address, your marriage date, etc., financial information which should include your current income, assets and liabilities of both you and your husband or wife, credit card bills, loan papers, bank statements, etc.

The fourth step is to try to settle things out with your soon-to-be-ex-spouse. It is always better to reach an agreement (called separation agreement) referring to the division of the marital goods, child custody and visitation rights (if the latter is the case) than go to trial. Your spouse and you can easily and quickly

reach such an agreement. If the two of you can't do it together and can't reach an agreement, then the court will have to do it for you and the judge will decide your divorce. However, the courtroom should be regarded as a last resort.

The fifth and final step is to sign the divorce papers. Now your marriage is over and you are legally divorced! Enjoy your new life!