

Divorce

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A divorce is a method of terminating a marriage contract between two individuals. From a legal standpoint, divorce gives each person the legal right to marry someone else. It also legally divides the couple's assets and debts and determines the care and custody of their children. Each state addresses these issues differently. However, most states follow the same basic principles and use relatively uniform standards.

In some states you need to prove fault, commonly referred to as "grounds," to be able to obtain a divorce. Pennsylvania, like the majority of states, allows several forms of "no-fault" divorce, where it is not required to prove any fault. If no-fault grounds for divorce are available in your state, either party may obtain a divorce, even if the other party does not consent to the divorce. In Pennsylvania, both fault and no-fault divorce grounds are available. No-fault divorces involve either a 90-day waiting period and written consent by both parties to the divorce, or a two-year separation. We can help you determine if you should pursue a fault based or no-fault based divorce. Most likely, we will file a complaint alleging both types of divorces. That way, if negotiations turn sour, we will not be forced to wait two years to obtain a divorce.



The primary issues to be decided during a divorce are: alimony or spousal support, property division, and, if there are children, child custody and visitation and child support. When spouses agree, they can usually obtain a divorce quickly. More typically, divorcing spouses have disputes regarding their post-marriage financial arrangements and the care and custody of their children.

Each state has different laws regarding division of marital property. Thirteen states follow the community property system, where marital assets are split equally. The rest of the states, like Pennsylvania, use an equitable distribution system that divides property after consideration of a number of elements in a manner the courts deem to be fair given the particular situation. (See our [Equitable Distribution](#) section). Any award of alimony, or ongoing financial support from one spouse to the other is made in conjunction with the distribution of property. Property division and alimony are often hotly contested and the early advice of an experienced family law attorney can greatly impact the ultimate result.

For most families, the decision to divorce opens the door to several difficult issues that must be resolved. Whether through negotiation or litigation, we will work with you and your family members to achieve fair and favorable arrangements on tough issues, while always protecting your rights, interests, and goals.

We also provide mediation services between the parties in a divorce. Our attorneys have vast experience in negotiating fair marital termination agreements. We can also assist in overcoming obstacles that often develop during a divorce, such as orders for protection or restraining orders. We have extensive experience resolving tough family issues, such as:

- [Legal & Physical Child Custody](#)

- Visitation
- Child Support
- Division of Marital Assets & Debt
- Spousal Support (Alimony)

Our goal is to design custom agreements that work for your family and your particular circumstances. We will also continue to work with you as your needs change and you require modification of support and custody agreements.

This is a time when you need someone impartial to protect you and look out for your interests. We will help you reach an agreement, while never allowing you be taken advantage of. We know that giving you personal attention is only one part of our representation. We also fight hard for your interests. We understand the complex property issues involved in many community property cases, and we can fight for your separate property. We work with pension and benefits evaluators and other financial professionals to make sure you get the full value of what you deserve.

We are expert negotiators and mediators. We can assist in the negotiation of all issues in your family law case, including custody, parenting time, child support, spousal maintenance, and division of property and debt. We can help you keep costs down when mediation is likely to result in a final settlement.

Divorce Mediation - Mediation is where both spouses conduct their own settlement talks in the presence of a facilitator who is trained to avoid a breakdown of negotiations and come to a final resolution. Whatever happens in mediation is confidential and cannot be used later in court. The mediator is not a judge and does not have the power to decide anything. The mediator is only there to help the two of you to create a settlement of your choosing. There is no downside to mediation. You cannot lose.

Aside from saving money and time, mediation produces impressive psychological benefits to the family. Studies indicate that children recover more quickly from the stress of divorce when the parents use mediation and that the number of couples who return to court after mediation is less than one-third of the number who obtained litigated settlements.



We make it a point to be available to our clients, and we can often meet the day you call. We invite you to contact our family law and divorce attorneys today. Often, we are able to meet with you the same day you contact us. Our address is 1908 Allen Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania, 18104. Our phone number is (610) 432-7040.