



It is important to know what options are available to you

**Dispute Resolution
Solutions Designed
to be**

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TO LEARN MORE**

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Contested Divorce

This is the divorce process you are probably most familiar with. One spouse files for divorce and demands that the court take action to end the marriage, determine custody of the children, and divide any assets. The other spouse responds, documents and other evidence is shared, court hearings are scheduled, and both sides prepare to fight over the disputed issues. If possible, it is preferable to avoid contested divorce if other options are available. Contested divorce is the most time consuming and costly of your options. If you have no choice but to face a contested divorce, it is vitally important that you obtain an attorney knowledgeable in family law who will utilize all appropriate tools to ensure your interests are protected.

Uncontested Divorce

Uncontested divorce is an option for those spouses who wish to avoid contested divorce by agreeing on all if the terms of the divorce at the beginning of the process. In an uncontested divorce, one attorney will draft all necessary paperwork, including the settlement agreement, at the beginning of the process. The paperwork is then signed, notarized, and filed with the court. Many counties will allow attorneys to finalize an uncontested divorce through the mail eliminating the need for a court hearing. Generally, uncontested divorce is the preferred option of obtaining a divorce. It avoids the fighting associated with divorce and is much more affordable for spouses struggling financially.

Pre-Divorce Mediation

Pre-Divorce Mediation is the newest option available to divorcing spouses. If the spouses cannot agree on the terms of the divorce but do not want to fight through the contested divorce process they should consider Pre-Divorce Mediation. During the Pre-Divorce Mediation session, the spouses will meet with an experienced mediator who will work with both spouses to resolve their difference. Once the spouses are in agreement regarding the terms of divorce, they may then file an uncontested divorce. Pre-divorce mediation is not appropriate for all cases so it is important to consult an attorney when evaluating your options.

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