

7 ways to simplify your divorce...

Divorce is never easy, but there are many ways to make the process go smoother, faster and with less stress. Take a deep breath, and explore your options.

1.

Talk to an attorney early

Even if you're not sure you want a divorce, get a lawyer's advice in the early stages to avoid costly mistakes, such as leaving the place where your child resides.

2.

Try to resolve things yourselves

Deciding who gets what is often what drags out a divorce the longest. Reaching a compromise about money, property and custody outside of litigation will save a lot of time, money and heartache.

3.

Apply for no-fault divorce

This is just like it sounds: no one is at fault for ending the marriage. All states allow no-fault divorces, but some might require that you live apart for a period of time before filing.

4.

Consider mediation

A family law mediator can be a great neutral party to help guide couples through the decision-making process of divorce, especially parents who will continue making joint decisions about their child's future.

5.

Apply for simplified divorce

Available in some states, this can be an inexpensive, fast way to end a marriage when there is no conflict between spouses. This is a good option when the marriage is of short duration with no kids and few marital assets.

6.

Try a collaborative divorce

This is a new alternative in some states that allows spouses to work together to address complicated issues. Typically, each spouse retains an attorney and agrees to avoid going to court by sharing information openly and working towards a settlement.

7.

Do a postnup

If you don't have a prenup, married couples can draft a postnuptial agreement before a divorce to set boundaries around assets or debts before getting divorced.



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