

HOW TO GET A DIVORCE WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK!

1. **Consider a Dissolution.** If you and your spouse can agree on splitting *everything* (to include children visitation, support, etc.), a Dissolution might be a more economical solution for you.
2. **Agree to split the items you can.** If a Dissolution is not for you, make a plan with your spouse to write down the items you do agree on splitting. Hand this to your attorney, it will save time and money!
3. **Know your finances!** Collect balances and account numbers for all of your accounts, credit cards, loans, mortgage, retirement, stocks, insurance, etc. If you do not know all of your account information, or if your spouse doesn't tell you about everything, run a free report on Credit Karma. Ask your spouse to do the same. Give the Credit Karma report to your attorney, this will save time and money.
4. **Know your Assets!** Take the time to look up the value of your vehicles. Have an appraisal performed on your home if you own. Call your plan administrator regarding any retirement account you have, find out the balances and what type of plan it is. Place a value on home furnishings. Determine any other assets you have and decide the value. Give a summary of your assets to your attorney.
5. **Agree to Shared Parenting/Visitation.** If you and your spouse can agree to a visitation plan, or shared parenting prior to meeting with an attorney, you will save a lot in attorney fees. A great deal of attorney fees are spent on temporary order hearings, status conferences, and pre-trials arguing over child custody. Also, most courts have local rules with sample visitation plans that may help you when working on a visitation plan.
6. **Find an Attorney you connect with.** Finding an attorney you can connect with will help ease anxiety and increase your comfort level. In the end a good attorney/client relationship will save you time and money through good communication.