

www.DivorceMagazine.com

NEW JERSEY WINTER/SPRING 2014

SINCE 1996

DIVORCE

MAGAZINE



BREAKING FREE FROM GUILT

Overcoming Victimhood

Saving on Legal Fees

25 Tips for Divorced Parents

Child Support Overview

Glossary of Divorce Terms

FREE!



contents...



Feature Stories

3 Breaking Free from Guilt

Allow your divorce negotiations to be driven by law and equity — not your feelings of guilt.

8 Child Support Overview

Married or not, all parents have a legal obligation to support their children; here's general overview of how child support works.



Advice & Insights for a Successful Divorce

12 Coming to Terms: Divorce Terminology in Court

A glossary of common terms used in divorce litigation and court.

33 Saving on Legal Fees During Your Divorce

Here's the inside scoop on how to save on legal fees during a divorce.

44 Victimhood: The Curse of Divorce Recovery

Tips on overcoming feelings of victimhood associated with your divorce.

47 Tips for Divorced Parents

How to create special memories and strengthen your bonds with your children.

52 Divorce Magazine Facebook Fans Share

Our Facebook Fans answer questions and share their divorce experiences.



Local Divorce Guide

20 FAQs

Professionals answer frequently asked questions.

37 Your Best Online Resources

Find professionals who can help you through your divorce.





Breaking Free from Guilt

Do not mix your feelings of regret and culpability with the integrity of the legal process. Allow your divorce negotiations to be driven by law and equity — not your feelings of guilt.

By Rebecca Zung

Carla knew that her husband was a good man and a good provider who was a dependable and loving dad. But she simply didn't love him anymore. She wanted a divorce. The guilt was nearly unbearable.

Mitch was a sex addict and married to his high school sweetheart. Conducting a double life for years, he was seemingly a model husband and family man. But the guilt he harbored about his clandestine activities caused him to be hospitalized due to a nervous breakdown.

Marlene hadn't seen her children in nearly a year. Her daughter's high school graduation was her chance to reconnect and begin to rebuild their relationship. Feeling guilty for having left her daughter's father, and for having been absent for so long, she chickened out and didn't show up — yet again.

Closely intertwined with shame and regret, guilt shows up in many different ways in divorce. Nearly every divorce has at least one party who is feeling some sort of guilt, shame or regret. This guilt comes from a sense that you have done something wrong. It may be from feeling that you have committed an offense against your spouse or children (that they won't grow up in a home with two parents, etc.), your family, or your god (divorce often has religious ramifications). Guilt is

regret that has been fed hormones and steroids and has grown out of control.

Free from Story, Free from Guilt

Often times, at least one of the following three “deadly marriage sins” are present before divorce: abuse, addiction, and adultery. But what if none of these “sins” were a factor in your divorce? Then your reasons are much less overt. Perhaps you honestly no longer love each other, or you've grown apart. Perhaps you no longer have anything in common. You never fight and maybe you even consider the other person to be a good friend, but you no longer want to be married. Guilt will make its presence known in this situation because you'll question whether you are making the right decision. You'll wonder if you should stay in the marriage because things aren't dreadful.

Society has established the ideal that we get married and stay married until we are parted by death. This ideal was created thousands of years ago, when life expectancy hovered around 40 years of age. Today, living robustly into our 90s is common. Being able to choose a life mate that will be the absolute right one for potentially 70 years is a tall task. People evolve, change, and develop in different ways and at different paces. Sometimes, we get lucky and find that person who



Einhorn Harris
attorneys at law

The Partners of the Firm:
Theodore E.B. Einhorn, Peter T. Harris, Michael R. Ascher, Patricia M. Barbarito, Bonnie C. Frost, Gary R. Botwinick, Stephen P. Haller, Thomas J. Snyder, Mark Wechsler, Andrew S. Berns, Christopher L. Musmanno, Jason R. Rittie

EINHORN, HARRIS, ASCHER, BARBARITO & FROST, P.C.

Every Step Of The Way

EACH DIVORCE PRESENTS UNIQUE ISSUES. The more complex the case, the more issues arise. Finding one lawyer who has expertise in these areas can be difficult, but Einhorn, Harris, Ascher, Barbarito & Frost, P.C. can solve this problem for you: they offer an experienced team of lawyers covering the full spectrum of family law.

With 18 matrimonial attorneys in their matrimonial law department, this firm tackles cases from the most simple to the most complex. Each attorney in the department concentrates on a particular area. Fees are based on the particular lawyer's level of experience. A divorcing client who comes in with a fairly straightforward matter enjoys the benefit of having an experienced matrimonial lawyer work on his or her case at a very reasonable rate. A client with a complicated case can take advantage of the knowledge and experience of a senior partner.

"We offer our clients a team approach," says Patricia Barbarito, a partner in the matrimonial department at Einhorn. "Teams are assigned to complex matters to ensure that clients' phone calls are returned promptly, that routine work is done at an associate's billing rate, and that the strategy and major decisions are undertaken by a more experienced lawyer."

Barbarito, a certified matrimonial lawyer and former chair of the Family Law Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association, is the 2004 recipient of the Tischler Award, presented by the New Jersey State Bar Association for lifetime contributions to the advancement of family law. She has been with the firm for the last 33 years.

"Our practice is general, but we are not general practitioners," says Barbarito. "A matrimonial case often involves other legal issues that can be addressed by an attorney in one of our departments — such as

taxation/trusts & estates, business/commercial, real estate, criminal, or personal injury."

The firm's philosophy is unique in that each case is analyzed and an action plan is formulated, so that the case doesn't develop a "life of its own." "Our experience and training enable us to approach issues in a very clear and organized fashion," says Barbarito.

The matrimonial attorneys in this firm know that divorce is a major life transition, and they strive to make the process as straightforward and painless as possible for each of their clients.

The firm's policy is to attempt to resolve cases by negotiation first, but they are not reluctant to defend their clients' rights in court. "We always make every effort to settle a case, but we are trained advocates and are prepared to litigate a case if need be," says Barbarito.

The law firm has been providing clients with high-quality, cost-effective legal services since 1961. Located in Denville, the hub of Morris County, this full-service law firm employs attorneys with a wide range of experience. Their team of experienced lawyers seeks to provide the understanding, personal involvement, and objectivity necessary to address their clients' unique legal issues.

For more information, or to book a consultation, contact Patricia Barbarito at:
Einhorn, Harris, Ascher, Barbarito & Frost, P.C.
Every Step of the Way

165 East Main Street, P.O. Box 3010, Denville, NJ 07834-3010
(973) 627-7300
info@einhornharris.com
www.einhornharris.com

will progress in the same way we do. Sometimes, that person serves a purpose in our lives for a period of time, but the relationship has a natural life cycle that comes to an end organically when it begins to outlive its usefulness. It doesn't make one of you wrong and the other one right. It just is. Free from story and free from guilt. But that may not stop you from feeling guilty about it.

As if the guilt you feel naturally isn't bad enough, there may be some who seemingly take delight in practically ensuring that you feel guilty. From your soon-to-be former spouse, to your children, friends, co-workers and sometimes, even your own parents or family – everybody has an opinion (or more likely a judgment) about how you should conduct your life, and they may do this by casting shadows of doubt on your decisions. Because we spend an inordinate amount of time trying to look good and avoiding looking bad to others, this is precisely the type of interaction that has a deleterious effect on you.

Feeling guilty serves no purpose whatsoever. Becoming a masochist and crawling into a hole does not change the past or the present. It does not take away what you did or did not do. It does not heal the other person's hurt or anger. What it *does* do, however, is affect your future.

The Effect of Guilt on Negotiations

The impact of guilt on negotiations in a divorce is huge – and usually not positive for at least one of the parties. Guilt can become the third entity in a negotiation and is definitely a foe. In the context of negotiation, usually the party who feels the most guilt will respond in one of two ways.

The first way goes something like this: “I am horrible. I don't deserve to have anything. Please just don't hate me forever. Please don't tell all of our friends and family what a bad person I am. Just take whatever you want. You deserve it and not me.” This person has become their own worst enemy, and without careful supervision, might give away the entire proverbial farm.

The second way that guilt shows up is more difficult to spot because it sends signals to attempt to throw the other party off the trail. This person projects his or her guilt onto the other person, usually in an angry, forceful, and vengeful way. This party is likely to highly litigate the case and take unreasonable positions in order to attempt to extort the other. While this kind of behavior seems counterintuitive for a person who is feeling guilty, it makes perfect sense. The attempt is to deflect wrongdoing away from themselves with a lot of “noise”.

Guilt Does not Serve You

Regardless of whether you are more like the first kind of guilty person or more like the second, one thing is clear: guilt

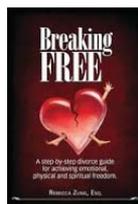
does not serve you, especially in negotiations. The end result is that the guilty party will end up with an unsatisfying result, one that will likely have a lot of regret attached to it.

You are good a person who may or may not have behaved badly. The first step to overcoming guilt is separating who you are from how you behaved. For example, parents can be angry at their child but still know that they are inherently good. Give yourself that same benefit of the doubt. You are not your behavior.

Do not mix your feelings of regret and culpability with the integrity of the legal process. Allow your divorce negotiations to be driven by law and equity – not your feelings of guilt. Separating these will be your first step in relieving yourself of these poisonous feelings.

The next step is to look forward and not back. In *The Power of Now*, Eckhart Tolle writes that the past no longer exists. You can't go back and touch it, interact with it, or be with it. It is gone. The future doesn't exist either. The only moment that exists is the present moment. I recall a saying that has stuck with me: “Don't be stressed over something in your past, because there is nothing you can do to change it. Focus on your present and create your future.” Seize your present moment and decide that this moment for yourself will be free from guilt and regret. ■

This article has been adapted with permission from *Breaking Free: A Step-by-Step Divorce Guide for Achieving Emotional, Physical and Spiritual Freedom* ©2013.



Rebecca Zung is the founding partner of the Law Office of Rebecca Zung-Clough, PLLC in southwest Florida. With many years of experience in family law, she strongly believes in divorce with dignity. www.zungfamilylaw.com

Related Articles:

Fortifying Yourself and Your Manifesto

Maintain personal power regardless of the chaos that appears to surround you.

www.divorcemag.com/articles/Health_Well_Being/yourself_and_your_manifesto.html

Managing Negative Thoughts Through Positive Manipulation

Shift yourself away from a negative state of being and make choices that benefit you, your ex and your children.

www.divorcemag.com/articles/Health_Well_Being/managing-negative-thoughts.html

CEO/Publisher

Dan Couvrette, Ext. 124
danc@divorcemarketinggroup.com

Editorial

Diana Shepherd, Ext. 131
diana@divorcemarketinggroup.com
John Matias, Ext. 129
john@divorcemarketinggroup.com

Advertising Sales

Divorce Magazine & DivorceMagazine.com
Dan Couvrette, Ext. 124
Barbara Corrigan, Ext. 128
barbarac@divorcemarketinggroup.com
David Tregwin, Ext. 126
davidt@divorcemarketinggroup.com

Art Director/Production/Webmaster

Gina Tan, gina@divorcemarketinggroup.com

Marketing/Client Services

Martha Chan, Ext. 136
marthac@divorcemag.com
Manos Filippou, Ext. 141
manos@divorcemarketinggroup.com
David Bareno, Ext. 123
david@divorcemarketinggroup.com
Tanoya Greaves, Ext. 125
tanoya@divorcemarketinggroup.com
Emod Vafa, Ext. 132
emod@divorcemarketinggroup.com

Accounting

Bruce Cowen, bruce@divorcemag.com

Circulation Manager

Sophie Yussuf, Ext. 121
sophie@divorcemarketinggroup.com

The printed edition of *Divorce Magazine* is published once a year by Segue Esprit Inc. The digital version is published twice a year and is available for free download on www.divorcemag.com. All rights reserved. Contents may not be reproduced without written permission. The magazine is not responsible for unsolicited material.

Subscriptions are available for \$25.99 (2 issues/2 years) or \$35.99 (3 issues/3 years). To subscribe, send your name, address, and a check/money order to:

Divorce Magazine Canada
2255B Queen St. E., #1179, Toronto, ON M4E 1G3
Phone & Fax: (866) 803-6667

Warning/Disclaimer

The articles in this magazine are only guidelines and may not apply to your situation. They do not take the place of a lawyer, accountant, therapist, etc. For professional advice, you must seek counsel from the appropriate professional. The authors, editor, and publisher shall have neither liability nor responsibility to any person with respect to loss or damage caused directly or indirectly by information contained in this magazine.

California ISSN: 1492-2045
Canada ISSN: 1481-9054
Illinois ISSN: 1481-9163
NY/NJ ISSN: 1719-363X

Printed in U.S.A

Advisory Board

Divorce Magazine would like to thank the following members of our Advisory Board for their help in making *Divorce Magazine* and www.DivorceMagazine.com such valuable resources for our readers. Visit www.divorcemag.com/XX/advisoryboard.shtml.



Patricia M. Barbarito is a certified matrimonial lawyer. She is a partner in the NJ law firm of Einhorn, Harris, Ascher, Barbarito, & Frost and the former chair of the New Jersey State Bar Association (Family Law Section). She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. (973) 627-7300
lgerber@einhornharris.com
www.EinhornHarris.com



Mark Chinn is the author of *How To Build and Manage a Family Law Practice* and *The Constructive Divorce* and has published the book *Forms, Checklists and Procedures for the Family Lawyer*. He is a frequent speaker and writer on topics of law firm management, marketing and client service. He is listed in The Best Lawyers in America and Outstanding Lawyers of America. (601) 366-4410
mark@chinnlaw.com
www.chinnlaw.com



Joy Feinberg is a partner at Boyle & Feinberg, a Chicago family law firm. She has contributed chapters to Illinois Family Law and Illinois Child Custody Litigation as well as authoring a tax chapter on divorce. She is a past-president of the Illinois chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Joy works extensively with business owners and high-paid executives going through divorces. (312) 376-8860
joy@boylefeinbergfamilylaw.com
www.boylefeinbergfamilylaw.com



Mari J. Frank is an attorney/mediator and privacy expert. She is an author, professor of conflict resolution, and she mediates privately as well as for the courts. Aside from hosting her weekly radio show "Prescriptions for Healing Conflict", she is been interviewed on Dateline, ABC, NBC; Investigative Reports and over 350 other radio and television shows. With 29 years of professional experience, Mari

harmonizes issues so her clients achieve create satisfying solutions. (949) 364-1511
mari@marifrank.com
www.MariFrank.com
www.ConflictHealing.com



Hon. Michele F. Lowrance (Ret.) was a domestic relations lawyer for 20 years prior to becoming a domestic relations judge in the circuit court of Cook County, Illinois for 19 years. She is currently a mediator for Domestic Relations cases at JAMS. Michele is the author of the book *The Good Karma Divorce* and co-author of *Parental Alienation 911 Workbook*. She has been a guest on Good Morning America, the CBS Morning Show, PBS, CNN, ABC and other networks. (312) 655-0555
mlowrance@jamsadr.com
www.jamsadr.com/lowrance



Bruce L. Richman, CPA/ABV, CVA, CDFATM, CFF, is a partner in the CohnReznick Advisory Group — Valuation Advisory Services. He has over 30 years of broad valuation experience and tax consulting matters. He is an expert witness with specific experience in divorce, including partner and shareholder disputes and corporate reorganizations/bankruptcy. (312) 508-5824, (847) 921-9992
bruce.richman@cohnreznick.com
www.cohnreznick.com



J. Lindsey Short Jr. has been Board Certified in family law since 1980, served as President of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers in 2002 and is a past President of the Texas Chapter of the AAML and a founding member of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, U.S.A. chapter. (713) 626-3345
lshort@shortcartermorris.com
www.shortcartermorris.com



EXPERIENCE. COMMITMENT. SUCCESS.

HOW WE ARE REALLY DIFFERENT.

At Salvaggio Law Group LLC, we realize that each person's situation is unique and that you deserve to be educated on all of your options. These options include not only the traditional Litigation approach — which will frequently generate higher lawyer's fees, take longer and cause more conflict than other available ways to attempt to resolve your dispute — but also non-adversarial dispute resolution methods such as Collaborative Practice and Mediation.

That's why, at Salvaggio Law Group, you'll find:

- **A CLIENT FOCUSED APPROACH** where the client's needs — not our profit — come first.

We realize that your divorce is unique. We also realize that it's not just a set of legal papers; it's a major life transition. That's why we take the time — before we do anything else — to understand your situation, your needs and your goals. We then provide you with the individualized services you need and help you through your divorce in the way that's best for you and your family.

- **AN INDIVIDUALLY CUSTOMIZED FEE STRUCTURE** which is right for your situation.

After many years of experience handling New Jersey Divorce and Family Law matters, Salvaggio Law Group believes that both the lawyer and the client should focus on the quality of the lawyer's services, rather than the amount of time which the lawyer has spent. Therefore, in the appropriate case, we offer fixed fee billing options.

- **ONGOING ACCESSIBILITY** to our Legal Professionals, who will take the time needed to keep you advised every step of the way.

When you hire Salvaggio Law Group LLC, you work directly with a team of legal professionals, which is headed by David Salvaggio and also includes another attorney and a legal assistant. You don't just deal with a secretary; you deal with the decision makers, the professionals who play the key roles in your case.

We value our clients' trust, and we work tirelessly to continue to earn that trust every day.



SALVAGGIO LAW GROUP LLC

A LAW FIRM DEVOTED
EXCLUSIVELY
TO DIVORCE AND
FAMILY LAW MATTERS

65 Madison Avenue, Suite 210
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

877-739-0684

Fax: (973) 455-1601

www.salvaggiolaw.net
dfs@salvaggiolaw.com

Child Support Overview

All parents have a legal obligation to support their children. The amount of child support payable/receivable post-divorce is based on a number of different factors; here's a general overview of how child support works.

By Diana Shepherd

Regardless of whether or not they were ever legally married, all parents have an obligation to support their children. In situations where the marriage (or marriage-like relationship) has broken down, the non-custodial parent is usually ordered to pay child support to the custodial parent; the custodial parent is expected to use these funds to pay for the child's expenses. In this situation, "custodial parent" means the one that the children live with most or all of the time after divorce; the "non-custodial" parent would have visitation or access rights, which might or might not include a certain number of overnight stays per week or month.

The amount of child support is based on a number of different factors, including the annual income of each co-parent, the total number of children in the family, and the custody arrangements for the children.

Child Support Guidelines

If there is one custodial parent (in most jurisdictions, this means that the children reside with this parent more than 60% of the time; ask a family law lawyer about the definition of



sole physical custody in your area), then the state or provincial Child Support Guidelines set out the base level of child support payable for one or more children. The Guidelines are intended to cover necessities: food, shelter, clothing, health-care, public education, etc. (For more information about the US child-support guidelines, see: www.supportguidelines.com. For more information about the Canadian child support guidelines, see: www.canada.justice.gc.ca/eng/fl-df/child-enfant/look-rech.asp.)

AS YOUR DIVORCE ATTORNEY WE HAVE YOUR BEST INTEREST AT HEART.

Weinberger Law Group – The perfect balance of strength and compassion from trusted authorities on New Jersey Divorce and Family Law.

Visit us online or call for a
FREE DIVORCE CONSULTATION.

WLG.com/DivorceAdvice
(888) 998-8859



OFFICE LOCATIONS:

Basking Ridge | Freehold | Hackensack | Parsippany



Weinberger
Law Group, LLC

Help and legal services for Divorce,
Alimony, Child Custody & Support,
Prenuptial Agreements, Mediation Services,
Domestic Violence Issues and more.

Exclusively devoted to New Jersey
Divorce & Family Law.
Compassionately focused on YOU.

You and the other parent can agree to pay for special expenses that go above and beyond what the child support guideline amounts will cover. These additional expenses generally need to be considered both necessary and reasonable by *both* parents: necessary because they are in a child's best interests, and reasonable in relation to both parents' incomes. (See "Special Expenses" for more information about this.)

Child support is generally payable until the children finish school or are emancipated (reach the age of majority, leave home, get married, or drop out of school). If the children are going to attend college, child support will generally continue until they obtain their degree; in some cases, courts have ordered child support to continue through a second (Masters level) degree. Make sure your divorce agreement states when child support will end (child's age and/or of level of education).

In the case of a special-needs child who will be dependent and living with a parent for the rest of his/her life, child support may be permanent. This is a complicated situation, so make sure you get good legal and financial advice before finalizing your divorce agreement if you have a special-needs child.

Opting out of the Child Support Guidelines

You and the other parent can choose to opt-out of the Guidelines and set up your own child support agreement as long as it is considered fair. If you choose to go this route, put your agreement in writing and sign it; this will reduce the risk of a misunderstanding, and it is easier to enforce a signed agreement. If you and the other parent wish to opt-out of the Guidelines, you should ask your divorce lawyer how much child support a judge would likely order to be paid in your situation and use that number as a starting point.

Before finalizing an agreement – especially if it diverges from the Guideline amounts – you should talk to a family law attorney. He/she can help you understand your legal rights and obligations, which guidelines apply to you, how to use those guidelines to calculate a child support amount, and provide the right documents if you go to court. You should also obtain advice from a financial professional – particularly about your ability to pay child support above and beyond the Guideline amounts.

Special Expenses

In many cases, children may have additional expenses that go beyond what the Child Support Guideline amounts will cover. As stated above, these special expenses generally need to be considered both necessary and reasonable by *both* parents: necessary because they are in a child's best interests, and reasonable in relation to both parents' incomes.

Special expenses could include items such as:

- **Child-care expenses.** The custodial parent incurs as a result of his/her job, illness or disability, or educational requirements for employment (e.g., returning to college to finish a degree in order to qualify for a job).
- **Medical and/or dental insurance.** The portion of the custodial parent's medical and dental insurance premiums that provides coverage for the children.
- **Healthcare not covered by insurance.** Examples might include medication, orthodontics, counselling, elective surgeries, eye exams and glasses, etc.
- **Extracurricular activities.** For instance, extra fees for sports, music, arts, and school trips.
- **Private school or tutoring.**
- **Post-secondary education.** Usually, this is for a first degree; however, it could include a second (Master's level) degree.

If both parents agree that additional expenses are both reasonable and necessary, then they will usually each contribute to them in proportion to their incomes – but they may also agree to an alternate division in which one parent pays anywhere from zero to 100% of the expense in question. Both parents are free to decide if a special expense is reasonable and necessary and how much each of them will contribute to them.

All parents have an obligation to support their children – whether or not they were ever legally married.



For instance, Frank and Judy have agreed to split expenses for their two children's private school tuition proportionate to income. However, they disagree about ballet lessons for their daughter and rep hockey for their son, so Frank has agreed to fund 100% of the hockey and Judy will fund 100% of the ballet lessons.

In your divorce agreement, you can list special expenses that you expect to incur today, in the near future, or many years later. For example, you can specify who will pay for what proportion of uninsured orthodontic expenses, your children's daycare, and your children's college tuition.

What if you and your Ex Can't Agree?

Special expenses are often a hotly-contested area. If you can't agree on whether an expense is both necessary and reasonable, ask an objective financial professional to analyze your situation and let both of you know whether you can truly afford the additional expense. You should also speak to a family law attorney about how judges in your area are ruling on special expenses — and how the judge would likely rule if you took your case to court.

If you still can't reach agreement, you could hire a divorce mediator to help you resolve your differences, retain divorce lawyers to advise and assist in your negotiations, or go to court and ask a judge to decide. ■

Diana Shepherd, a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst® and Editorial Director of Divorce Magazine, has been writing about divorce-related issues since 1995.



Institute for Divorce
Financial Analysts

Salutes



Cathy Belmonte Newman, CDFA™, MBA
Lincolnshire, IL

Cathy is a financial analyst with over 25 years of knowledge and experience. Cathy left corporate finance and became the owner of F4 Financial, a niche financial firm that provides analytical and litigation support services. As a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst® (CDFA™), she specializes in lifestyle analysis, financial affidavits, expert testimony, forensic accounting, projection of future expenses and balance sheet preparation. Cathy has supported the IDFA community in numerous ways throughout her time as a CDFA™. More recently, she has assisted in planning the IDFA spring conference, as well as volunteered to sit on the IDFA Board of Advisors.

She can be reached using the following:
E-mail: cathy@f4financial.com Website: www.f4financial.com

Nancy Hetrick, CDFA™, AWMA®
Phoenix, AZ

With 15 years of finance experience, Nancy provides financial clarity and guidance to individuals and couples going through divorce to help ensure that the parties are completely informed and educated about their settlement options to help them make the best financial decisions possible at a time when emotions can often cloud best judgment. Since 2011 Nancy has been serving in the Phoenix Metropolitan area supporting clients in negotiation, litigation, and is also a trained mediator. Additionally, Nancy has assisted with the technical review of the new ADFA certification IDFA will offer in 2014, and she has volunteered to sit on the IDFA Board of Advisors.

She can be reached at 877-552-4017, via email at Nancy@SmarterDivorceSolutions.com.



IDFA has been successful due to a strong member base which contributes their time and expertise on a daily basis. IDFA wants to personally thank all of their members for their support and their efforts towards ensuring the future success of IDFA.

For more information about the programs IDFA offers please use the below contact information:

Head Office:
2224 Sedwick Road, Suite 102
Durham, NC 27713
United States of America

Email: info@institutedfa.com
Toll-Free: 800-875-1760
Fax: 888-527-7657
Website: www.InstituteDFA.com

Related Articles

Custody and Visitation Defined

Common questions regarding child custody and visitation.

www.divorcemag.com/articles/Child_Custody/custody-and-visitation-defined.html

Shared Physical Custody: A Growing Trend

A shared physical custody arrangement may be just the solution.

www.divorcemag.com/articles/Child_Custody/shared_physical_custody.html



Coming to Terms: Divorce Terminology in Court

Here's a glossary of some of the most common divorce terms used in divorce litigation and court.

If you've chosen to litigate your divorce, you're going to be hearing lots of unfamiliar terms as well as common words that have a very specific meaning in family law. Here's an explanation of some of the most common divorce terms.

Absolute Divorce: The absolute ending of a marriage, leaving both parties free to remarry.

Adversarial Divorce: When a couple cannot come to an agreement about the terms of their divorce.

Ab Initio: Latin phrase meaning "from the beginning."

Action: Lawsuit or proceeding in a court of law.

Affidavit: Written statement of facts made under oath and signed before a notary public or other officer who has authority to administer oaths.

Agreement: Verbal or written resolution of previously disputed issues.

Annulment: The legal end of an "Invalid Marriage". In the eyes of the law,

the parties were never married to each other, but all children of their relationship remain legitimate.

Answer: Written response to a complaint, petition, or motion.

Appeal: The process by which a higher court reviews the decision of a lower court to determine whether there was reversible error. If so, the appellate court amends the judgment or returns the case to the lower court for a new trial.

Change of Venue: A change of judges or geographical location.



Back Row (L TO R): James C. Jensen, Christine M. Dalena Esq., William M. Laufer, Kimberly N. Gronau Boyd, Michelle A. Benedek, Joseph P. Cadicina
Front Row: John J. Harper, Gregory D.R. Behring, Emily R. Cartensen, Alexis Nicole Laufer, Mario L. Delmonaco, Laurence J. Cutler

LAUFER, DALENA, CADICINA, JENSEN & BOYD, L.L.C.

Experienced Family Law Attorneys

The lawyers at Laufer, Dalena, Cadicina, Jensen & Boyd, L.L.C. are well-respected leaders in family law. In the past year, several of our attorneys, including William M. Laufer, Christine M. Dalena, Joseph P. Cadicina, James C. Jensen, Kimberly N. Gronau Body, Laurence Cutler, Michelle A. Benedek, Terryann Bradley, Alexis Laufer and Mario N. Delmonaco have received honors and accolades. Our lawyers belong to virtually every lawyer organization dealing with matrimonial law and have been leaders in those organizations.

One of northern New Jersey's premier family law firms, Laufer, Dalena, Cadicina, Jensen & Boyd, L.L.C. is committed to pursuing the best reasonable results for clients. Handling a full range of family law issues with a focus on divorce and dissolution of civil unions, its lawyers carefully explore available legal options. The particular circumstances of each case dictate the most appropriate strategy, whether it is an alternative dispute resolution, such as mediation or arbitration, or aggressive trial preparation.

Laufer, a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers has served as Morris County Bar Association president. Dalena is a court-approved mediator and a collaborative law attorney. Cadicina has significant family law experience, is a court approved mediator and lectures frequently throughout the state on family law issues. Jensen focuses on matrimonial and family law but also handles civil and criminal matters. Cutler is the co-author of the state's leading treatises in the area of family law. Also, Kimberly N. Gronau Boyd, Michelle Benedek and Terryann Bradley handle complex family law litigation. Associates Mario N. Delmonaco, Alexis Laufer, Gregory D.R. Behringer, Carly DiFrancisco and Ellen M. Seigerman have years of family law experience and are known for their knowledge and expertise.

The firm also has Retired Morris County Superior Court Judge John J. Harper of counsel to perform mediation and arbitration services.

LAUFER, DALENA, CADICINA, JENSEN & BOYD, L.L.C.
23 Cattano Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960 • PH: (973) 285-1444 • FX: (973) 285-0271
www.lauferfamilylaw.com • jcadicina@lauferfamilylaw.com

Collusion: An agreement between two or more persons where one of the parties brings false charges against the other. Collusion is illegal.

Common-Law Marriage or Relationship: Based on cohabitation where no formal marriage ceremony has taken place, this is a judicially recognized marriage in some U.S. states. All Canadian provinces recognize common-law relationships, but the rights and privileges are not the same as for those couple who entered into a legal marriage.

Complainant: The one who files the suit, same as plaintiff.

Complaint: This is a legal document filed by the plaintiff to start the divorce process. It states that the marriage has ended and lists the grounds and claims for the divorce. In some states it is also known as a petition.

Condonation: The act of forgiving one's spouse who has committed an act of wrongdoing that would constitute grounds for divorce. Condonation generally is proven by cohabitating with the spouse after learning that the wrongdoing was committed.

Contempt of Court: The willful failure to comply with a court order, judgment, or decree by a party to the actions. Contempt of Court may be punishable by fine or imprisonment.

Contested Divorce: Any case where the judge must decide one or more issues that are not agreed to by the parties. All cases are considered contested until all issues have been agreed to.

Corroborative Witness: A person who testifies for one of the parties and backs up their story.

Court Order: A written instruction from the court carrying the weight of law. Orders must be in writing. Anyone who knowingly violates a court order

can be held in contempt of court.

Cross Examination: The questioning of a witness presented by the opposing party on trial or at a deposition. The purpose is to test the truth of that testimony.

Decree: The final ruling of the judge on an action for divorce, legal separation, or annulment. Decree has the same meaning as judgment.

Decree Nisi / Rule Nisi: An order by the court stating that a conditional divorce will become absolute by a certain date, unless a party contests the order.

Default: A party's failure to answer a complaint, motion or petition.

Defendant: The partner in a marriage against whom a divorce complaint is filed. Defendant has the same meaning as respondent.

Deposition: The testimony of a witness taken out of court under oath and reduced to writing. The deposition may be used to discredit a witness if he changes his testimony.

Direct Examination: The initial questioning of a witness by the attorney who called him or her to the stand.

Discovery: In the U.S., Discovery is a procedure followed by attorneys to determine the nature, scope, and credibility of the opposing party's claim. Discovery can include depositions, written interrogatories, and notices to produce documentation relating to issues relevant to the case.

Dismissal: Occurs when a party voluntarily drops the case (in some states) or when a judge finds that a case totally lacks merit.

Dissolution of Marriage: The legal process of ending a marriage. In most U.S. states, this is the legal term for divorce.

Divorce: The legal proceeding by which a marriage is legally terminated. It may be contested (where one party denies the allegation or wants to keep the marriage in place) or uncontested.

Equitable: Means fair; does not necessarily mean equal.

Evidence: Proof presented at a hearing, including testimony, documents or objects.

Exhibits: Tangible things presented at trial as evidence.

Ex Parte: An application for relief conducted for the benefit of one party only. These judicial proceedings are generally reserved for urgent matters in which requiring notice would subject one party (or his/her property) to irreparable harm. Examples include a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) against an abusive spouse to stay away from the abused party, or a TRO stopping a spouse from removing or destroying family property.

Expert Witness: In court proceedings, the expert witness is the professional whose testimony helps a judge reach a decision.

File/Filing: To place a document in the official custody of some public official.

Financial Affidavit/Statement: Key document used to collect financial data; in some states and provinces, it may be known as a "Financial Statement" and may use a standard form. This document becomes part of the record of documents that are filed with the court.

Foundation: The evidence that must be presented before asking certain questions or offering documentary evidence in trial. If a piece of evidence lacks foundation (proof, facts to back it up) it will not be admitted or considered as evidence in the court case.

Grounds for Divorce: Reasons for



Left to right: Patricia E. Apy, Michael J. Fleres, Bonnie M.S. Reiss, Elissa A. Gross, Peter C. Paras

A Unique Approach to Each Case

PARAS, APY & REISS, P.C. was formed in 1996 by Bonnie Reiss, Patricia Apy and Peter Paras to better serve the needs of their clients in New Jersey and in interstate and international family law disputes. The firm is devoted solely to family law matters. Mrs. Reiss, Mrs. Apy and Mr. Paras share the belief that their clients are best served by a firm whose lawyers, staff and philosophy center on representing the unique needs of separating and divorcing couples. Since its founding, our family law attorneys at Paras, Apy & Reiss, P.C. have remained true to three guiding principles:

1. All divorce cases are unique and require an approach that is tailored to their characteristics. A “cookie-cutter” approach will never do.
2. Communication between lawyer and client is essential to attaining the client’s goals in a fair and reasonable manner. Only when the firm and its clients communicate effectively can their shared goals be achieved.
3. There is no substitute for preparation. Preparation is knowing the case better than anyone else in the room (whether courtroom or conference room) and is what creates the position of strength from which positive results flow.

In 2003, Paras, Apy & Reiss, P.C. was named to the Bar Register of Preeminent Law Firms by Martindale-Hubbell and has maintained that rating every year since. Our firm’s family law attorneys are members of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, the International Academy

of Matrimonial Lawyers, the American Bar Association, the New Jersey State Bar Association and several county bar associations and have been named “Super Lawyers” by New Jersey Monthly Magazine every year since 2005.

Frequently, firm lawyers are called upon to teach at Continuing Legal Education seminars, to write articles on a myriad of family law issues and to comment on current family law topics. They have also been asked to serve on prestigious legal boards and committees on the national, state and local levels.

The attorneys at Paras, Apy and Reiss, P.C. have vast experience representing family law clients in divorce, custody, domestic violence and financial disputes. They work as a team with knowledgeable and sophisticated paralegals to represent their clients in an intelligent, professional and ethical manner at all times. The wealth of experience gained over many years of practice provides a valuable resource to firm clients and often is an important factor in their achieving favorable results.

The firm also represents clients in mediation and arbitration and our attorneys serve as mediators and arbitrators in cases involving child custody, businesses, professional practices and other complex financial issues. The office is well equipped to provide privacy and comfort to both sides in a mediation, arbitration or negotiation.

Paras, Apy & Reiss, P.C.

The Galleria, 2 Bridge Ave., Ste. 601, Red Bank, NJ 07701
Tel.: (732) 219-9000 Fax: (732) 219-9020

familylaw@parasapyreiss.com
www.par-law.com



Download their handbook
“Divorce: A Guide to the Process”
free of charge from
www.par-law.com

seeking a divorce, such as incompatibility, mental cruelty, physical abuse, or adultery. While some states allow fault grounds for divorce, all states have some form of no-fault divorce. Marriage breakdown is the sole ground for legally ending a marriage under the terms of Canada's *Divorce Act*.

Guardian-ad-Litem: A person appointed by a judge to prosecute or defend a case for a person legally unable to do so, such as a minor child.

Hearing: Any proceeding before a judicial officer.

Hearsay: Hearsay is an out-of-court statement offered to prove the truth of the matter asserted. Generally speaking, hearsay cannot be used at trial, but there are exceptions that permit it to be admitted to court.

Incompatibility: The inability of persons to get along; a ground for divorce.

Interrogatories: A series of written questions served upon the opposing party in order to discover certain facts regarding the disputed issues in a matrimonial proceeding.

Judgment: The order of the court on a disputed issue; same as decree.

Jurisdiction: The power of the court to rule upon issues relating to the parties, their children or their property.

Legal Separation: Court ruling on division of property, spousal support, and responsibility to children when a couple wishes to separate but not divorce. A legal separation is most often desired for religious or medical reasons. A decree of legal separation does not dissolve the marriage and does not allow the parties to remarry. Some states (e.g., Texas) do not recognize legal separation.

Lis Pendens: A piece of property cannot be transferred during a pending lawsuit that may change the disposition



of it, once a notice has been filed in the public record.

Litigation: The process by which a civil case settles parties' rights.

Modification: A change in the judgment, based on a change in circumstances.

Motion: An application or request to the court for an order. May be written or verbal.

No-Fault Divorce: A marriage dissolution system whereby divorce is granted without the necessity of proving one of the parties guilty of marital misconduct.

Nuptial: Pertaining to marriage.

Order: A ruling by the court.

Pendente Lite Orders: A temporary order of the Court that provides support until the divorce is finalized. Pendente Lite or Temporary orders are automatic in some areas.

Perjury: The act of lying while under oath.

Petition: A written application for particular relief from the court. In some jurisdictions complaint for divorce is entitled "petition for dissolution."

Petitioner: The person who filed the

Petition or Complaint. Also referred to as the Plaintiff.

Plaintiff: The spouse who initiates the legal divorce process by filing a complaint or petition stating that the marriage is over and listing the grounds and claims against the other spouse. Plaintiff is the same as Petitioner.

Precedent: Decisions found in other pre-existing cases that factor into the case at hand.

Prenuptial Agreement/Marriage Contract: Prior to a marriage, partners contractually agree how assets and liabilities will be divided in the event of a divorce. In Canada, this is known as a "Marriage Contract".

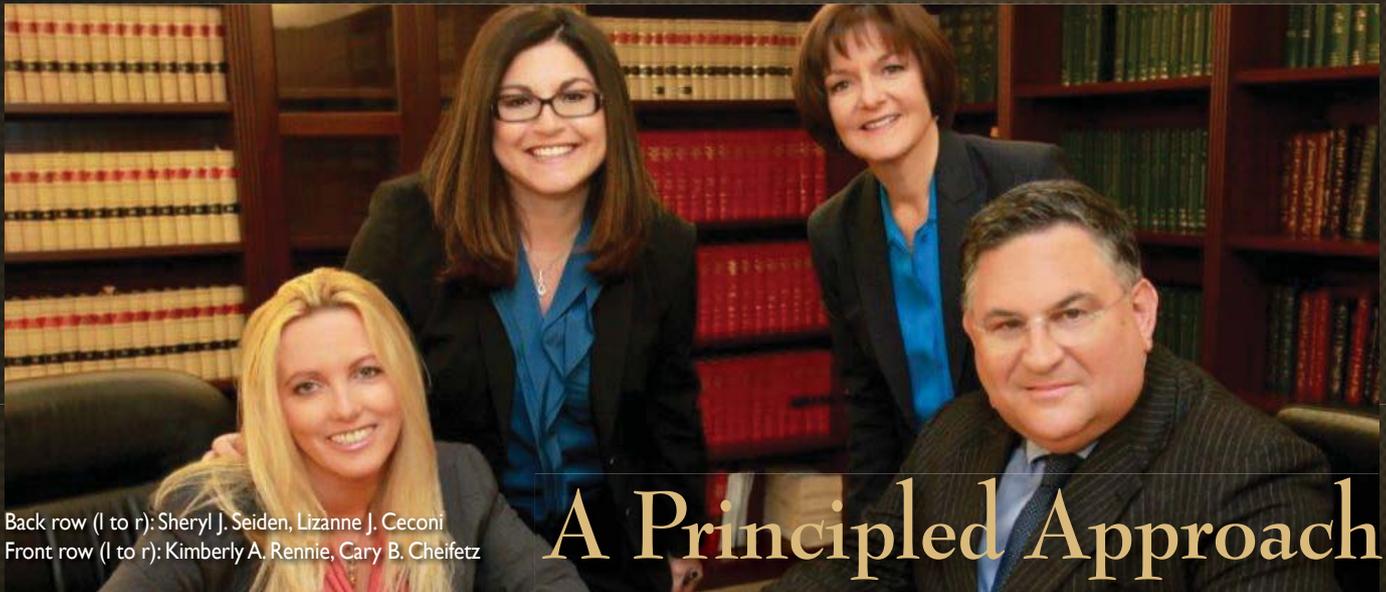
Privilege: The right of a spouse to make admissions to an attorney, clergyman, psychiatrist or others as designated by state law that are not later admissible as evidence.

Pro Se Divorce: A divorce wherein the divorcing partners represent themselves in court (with or without a mutually agreeable separation agreement) without the assistance of attorneys.

Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO): In the U.S., this is a court ruling earmarking a portion of a person's retirement or pension fund payments to be paid to his/her ex-

CECONI & CHEIFETZ, LLC

Attorneys at Law



Back row (l to r): Sheryl J. Seiden, Lizanne J. Ceconi
Front row (l to r): Kimberly A. Rennie, Cary B. Cheifetz

A Principled Approach

There's something unique about a law firm, or any company for that matter, where one of the initial tasks of the founding partners was to set down their operating principles and a mission statement. There's also something particularly telling about a firm that begins its list of principles by stating: "We distinguish ourselves by satisfying our clients with great caring service and developing strong client relationships. Therefore, we try our best to respond to client inquiries the same day when possible."

Client service is just as important for the Summit, New Jersey based firm of Ceconi & Cheifetz, LLC as its ten operating principles. When Lizanne J. Ceconi and Cary Cheifetz founded the firm in 1999, there were just three lawyers. Now there are ten, a number Ceconi believes is "just right." With that number, she says, "we've got tremendous depth and differing levels of experience and expertise, so that we can provide really good service to clients and still keep it personal." And, Cheifetz adds, at that size, "you can offer diversity, without it being a place where you don't know who's going to return your call. You can still provide personal service."

Which leads to operating principle number 2: "Our staff is our most important resource and the backbone of our success. We select, train, develop, and motivate each person to be the best. If our staff is successful, we are successful. We are a team, and we support each other and work together to achieve common goals." The result, says Ceconi, is that they

can draw on the expertise and experience of all in the firm when necessary. "This is all about what's best for the client, not what's best for an individual attorney."

For the attorneys at Ceconi & Cheifetz, helping clients during a stressful period to see what is happening, realize what it is that they want, and get on their feet again is an important goal, which points to operating principle number 5: "We communicate leadership, vision, strategies, goals, and ideas." An attorney who exhibits these traits is invaluable. "We try to come up with creative solutions and to help them prioritize," says Cheifetz. "I think one of the most important things is helping a client decide what they really want, and then we figure out how to get that for them."

Arriving at a satisfactory end result may necessitate the use of outside experts such as family therapists, real-estate appraisers, accountants, and firms that do business evaluations. And whenever necessary, Ceconi & Cheifetz can turn to a well-considered roster of professionals.

In all its years, Ceconi & Cheifetz has developed a reputation for being honest, respectful, and effective, but it is the final paragraphs of the firm's mission statement that truly explains the reasons for its success. It is "our personal commitment to our client. That commitment is a pledge to counsel, to educate, and to work together to achieve realistic goals and objectives. We want to make a difference in each client's life."

It's an approach that seems to be working.

For more information, or to book an appointment, please contact:

Ceconi & Cheifetz, LLC
www.ccfamlaw.com • firm@ccfamlaw.com

25 Deforest Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901
Phone: (908) 273-6300 • Fax: (908) 273-4797

spouse as part of a division of marital assets.

Quid Pro Quo: The giving of one valuable thing for another.

Rebuttal: The introduction of evidence at a trial that is in response to new material raised by the defendant at an earlier stage of the trial.

Reconciliation: When parties decide to get back together. They may sign a reconciliation agreement, which is enforceable by the court.

Respondent (Defendant): The party defending against a divorce petition (complaint).

Restraining Order: A court order prohibiting a party from certain activities. Restraining orders are often issued to protect against domestic violence or to protect marital assets. In some jurisdictions, violating a “domestic restraining order” is a criminal offense.

Retainer: Money paid by the client to the lawyer or expert witness to obtain a commitment to handle

the client’s case. A retainer can be a deposit against which the lawyer or expert witness charges fees as they are earned.

Rules of Evidence: The rules that govern the method of presentation and admissibility of oral and documentary evidence at court hearings or depositions.

Separation or Settlement Agreement: A written contract dividing property, spelling out rights and obligations, as well as settling issues such as spousal and child support and custody.

Service: Providing a copy of the papers being filed to the opposing party.

Standard of Living: A factor when determining spousal support, allowing the recipient an adequate amount to maintain their current lifestyle.

Stipulation: An agreement between the parties or their counsel, usually related to matters of procedure.

Subpoena: A court order requiring a person’s appearance in court or at a deposition as a witness or to present documents or other evidence for a case.

Summons: A Summons is a written notification to the defendant or respondent that an action has been filed against him or her. It notifies a spouse of his/her rights and obligations in responding to the Complaint for Divorce.

Testimony: Statements under oath by a witness in a court hearing or deposition.

Transcripts: The written record of the divorce proceedings, testimony or depositions.

Trial: The time when a judge hears the contested permanent or temporary issues, with supporting evidence and witnesses, in a couple’s divorce decisions. The judge may take a few hours or a few weeks to review the



information presented and issue a court opinion.

Uncontested Divorce: When the defendant is not going to try to stop the divorce and there are no issues for the court to decide about the children, money or property.

Venue: The County in which the case is heard.

Voir Dire: Where the opposing counsel has the opportunity to disqualify an expert witness.

Writ of Summons: A form issued by the court directing a party to respond to a complaint, motion or petition. ■

Related Articles

Divorce Glossary

Here are some more legal terms you should know during the divorce process.
www.divorcemag.com/articles/Divorce_Law/divorce_glossary.html

Observe Courtroom Etiquette

Learning a bit of etiquette in advance will help ease your worries about making a gaffe in court.
www.divorcemag.com/articles/Divorce_Law/courtroom-etiquette-family-law.html

Uncommon Advice from the Bench

Tips from a divorce judge on how to get past your divorce – and on with your life.
www.divorcemag.com/articles/divorce-tips-from-professionals/judge-duncan.html



PAC
PENSION ANALYSIS CONSULTANTS, INC.
QDROs for Divorce & Post-Divorce

Over 25 years of Credentialed Expertise in Pensions & QDROs in Divorce

When your divorce case involves dividing pensions from a private or public employer including Teachers, Federal or Military, we offer expertly performed pension valuations and QDRO drafting. We guarantee plan approval.

- Affordable Low Fees
- 2-Week QDRO Draft Turnaround
- QDRO Plan Pre-Approval Service
- ✓ Marital Asset Offsetting for E.D. Schemes
- ✓ Settlement Language Guidance
- ✓ Expert Testimony Service

Call for fees & information specific to your needs:
(800) 288-3675

QDRO e-Request: myPAC.pensionanalysis.com

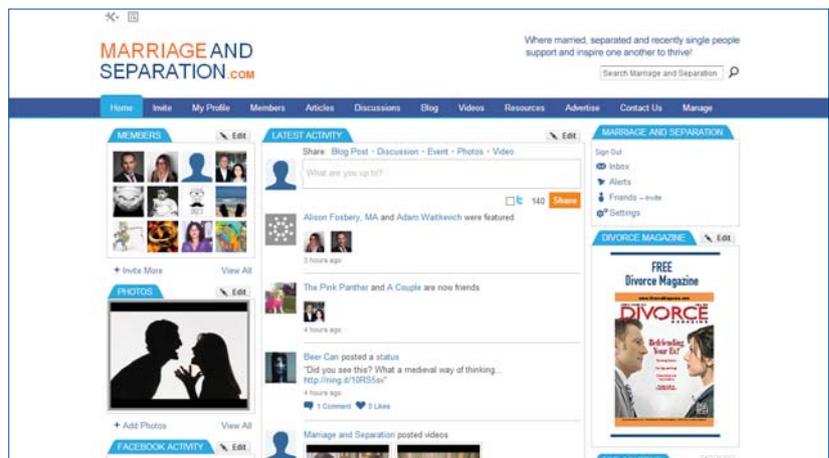



American Academy of Economic and Financial Experts

pac1@pensionanalysis.com • www.pensionanalysis.com

MARRIAGE AND SEPARATION.COM

A new social network where married, divorced and recently single people support one another to thrive!



Blog | Post | Comment | Join today for free

Common Divorce

Questions



Answers to some of the more frequently asked questions about the divorce process in New Jersey

Legal Issues

“How can I keep my legal bills under control?”

Lizanne J. Ceconi, a family lawyer in Summit, answers:

The key to managing your legal bills is organization and participation. As the client, you should be part of the team putting together your case. Since most matrimonial fees are billed based on the time spent, a client who is efficient and prepared can help reduce costs.

The first rule is that you should only call your divorce attorney to discuss legal matters concerning the case. Too often, clients confuse the role of the family law attorney with their therapist. You should prepare a list of items

to discuss with your divorce lawyer whether talking on the phone or meeting in person. It will help you better focus on the case. This also ensures that you will cover all of your pressing issues and get the responses needed.

If the family law attorney is not in when you call, leave a detailed message. If the question can be easily answered by staff, you can save the attorney’s time and your money. If the divorce lawyer knows the reason for the call, a response may be communicated by staff that saves on telephone billing time.

Don’t hesitate to use the services of an associate for the mundane or perfunctory aspects of your case. By using an associate, you will be billed at lower hourly rates. The senior partner will still be available to review the matter,

but will need less time to do so at the higher hourly rate.

Another way of keeping your legal fees in check is to communicate with your divorce lawyer by email. It allows the client to focus on the issue and lets the family law attorney respond in writing. Often times, a distraught client may not “hear” the answer when told. The client can then reflect upon what is being told in writing. Keep your emails brief and to the point: a long email may be too hard to answer with a quick turnaround.

If you have a list of issues and developments in your case that need to be discussed with your divorce lawyer, schedule a telephone conference or meeting. Prepare and share an agenda with your divorce attorney in advance so everyone knows what areas need to



LAW OFFICES OF
**CHARNY, CHARNY
& KARPOUSIS, P.A.**

Divorce & Family Law

South Jersey Family Law Attorneys

856.505.1700

The Business of Divorce



Judith S. Charny



Karen R. Karpousis



Nancy D. Gold



Meghan E. Bradley



Michelle F. Altieri



Nicole Donoian-Pody



Erika L. Goldberg

High Quality Legal Services for Very Personal Matters

Charny, Charny & Karpousis is one of South Jersey's largest "boutique" divorce and family law firms. Our team of highly-recognized attorneys possess the skills to handle complex divorces involving business owners, executives and professionals, as well as LGBT cases, and also offer alternative dispute resolution.

Our firm offers legal representation for ALL types of family law matters including divorce, custody, child support, college issues, alimony, asset division, domestic violence, prenuptial agreements, grandparent's rights, and post-judgment modifications.

We integrate our in-depth knowledge and years of experience to provide each client with the quality guidance necessary to resolve their family law matters.

Experience and Efficiency that Counts

Our attorneys are well-respected by their peers and the judiciary, with over 130 years of combined experience navigating the New Jersey court system. We apply that experience in seeking expeditious resolutions to the difficult challenges facing our clients.

Minimizing the Impact of Divorce on Business

Our firm has significant experience counseling business owners, professionals and their

spouses facing divorce and the valuation of their privately owned businesses, real estate, and professional practices. At Charny, Charny & Karpousis we possess the necessary financial acumen and compassionate commitment required to provide legal representation to clients with substantial marital estates and to help minimize the overall impact of divorce.

Offering Litigation, Mediation, Arbitration and Collaborative Divorce Services

While our team of family lawyers are seasoned litigators, Charny, Charny & Karpousis also offers alternative services that may be more advantageous to you, including Mediation, Arbitration, and Collaborative Divorce. In the new Collaborative approach, the goal is to resolve all the divorce issues through a non-adversarial team approach while focusing on the future of the individuals and their children. Collaborative divorce keeps your private information out of the Court system, preserves your children's mental health, and allows you to better control your own destiny.

Compassionate and Practical Team Approach

Our firm's strength lies in our experience and dedication to our clients, their families, businesses, and futures. Our attorneys are good listeners and effective communicators, while being assertive, determined and practical advocates for our clients.

"In this economy, selecting an experienced and efficient divorce lawyer is more important than ever."

Judith S. Charny, Senior Partner

Contact us today for an initial consultation so we can help you take care of the business of your divorce.

Law Offices of
Charny, Charny & Karpousis, P.A.
1300 Route 73, Suite 211
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

(856) 505-1700
info@charnylaw.com
www.charnylaw.com

Our divorce lawyers represent clients in all of Southern New Jersey, including the South Jersey counties of Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic, Ocean and Mercer Counties.

be covered. Limit the time of the meeting. Both the client and divorce lawyer are then better prepared to cover the topics.

Finally, the more concise the information you provide your family law attorney, the less time will be needed to properly prepare your case. Complete the “homework” given to you by your divorce lawyer as best as you can. Gather your financial documents in the beginning of the case, including tax returns, financial statements, bank statements, checking account records, and credit-card statements. Organize them and produce chronological records for the divorce lawyer.

Organize your checking records to produce your budget. If you have access to Quicken or some other computer software program that helps prepare budgets, complete this information for your attorney. The client is the best “expert” to determine the parties’ lifestyle. If you do not have access to these records, prepare a list for your attorney of what financial accounts you believe were maintained during the marriage and the name of the accountant who may have prepared your tax returns.

A well-organized and proactive client not only saves fees, but is more likely to realize his or her goals in the divorce process.

“What can you suggest to your clients to help through the divorce process?”

Alison C. Leslie, a family lawyer in Morristown, answers:

I frequently suggest to my clients that they have a support network around them. Divorce is extremely traumatic. You need someone else to turn to. While an attorney is a professional from whom you need to seek help, they can only give legal advice. I frequently suggest to my clients that they speak with a counselor to help them deal with their emotions as well as an accountant

to help them reach their financial goals at the end of the divorce. Getting divorced is really a team effort, and our clients are the center — or the captain — of our team.

“Should I tell my lawyer the whole truth? There are certain things I’d like to keep to myself.”

Patricia Barbarito, a family lawyer in Denville, answers:

The entire divorce process is replete with the exposure of so much personal information that often a litigant feels vulnerable and exposed. To have to reveal to a lawyer, or to any stranger, personal details of a relationship is no easy task.

Many lawyers feel that revealing details of a relationship is of no interest to them, particularly in no-fault states. However, my experience is that understanding the history and dynamics of a relationship is important for two reasons:

1. It helps me get to know the client and evaluate our potential working relationship;
2. In exploring and understanding the history of a relationship, facts relevant to the divorce litigation are often revealed.

However, you don’t need to share embarrassing, intimate stories in detail; you can simply make references or share information in a dignified fashion.

Of course, telling the “whole truth” sometimes involves sharing facts that go to the heart of a divorce proceeding: the finances. For example, is there cash in a safe-deposit box that your spouse is unaware of? This type of question presents a more difficult situation for the client and the lawyer. Although information shared with your lawyer is protected by the attorney-client privilege, should you share with your lawyer information and then attempt to certify to the contrary (for example, telling your lawyer about the cash in

the safe-deposit box, and omitting it from a sworn statement of assets submitted to the court), a problem arises. Your lawyer cannot continue to represent you knowing that you are providing false information. It may become necessary for your attorney to remove himself or herself as your counsel, should you choose to misrepresent the facts under oath.

“What are the responsibilities of my divorce attorney and what are my own responsibilities as a client?”

Rosanne DeTorres, a family lawyer in Flemington, answers:

The attorney’s primary responsibility is to use her knowledge, training, and skills to offer the client available options to achieve the client’s stated goals. In the legal world, there are always many ways to take to reach a settlement, depending the particular facts and circumstances of your life. Your right is to be informed of creative ways to resolve the issues presented in your case. You make the ultimate decisions about every step of your case and settlement.

The attorney usually determines strategy without the client’s input, like how to address a witness, or who should testify first. Attorneys are best at making these decisions for the client, given their courtroom experience and expertise.

The first thing that an attorney asks of a client is to be truthful at all times. Withholding information or providing incorrect information will prevent the attorney from giving proper advice.

Throughout the legal process, the attorney will request a lot of financial statements and documents. Some are not so easy to find, so be prepared to do some digging. The bottom line is that the more things you do for the attorney, the lower the fees will be.

Here are a few tips about how to make the Attorney/Client team successful:

OBERMAYER

REBMANN MAXWELL & HIPPEL LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

info@obermayer.com
www.obermayerfamilylaw.com

Responsive Attorneys.
Respected Work.
Effective Results.



At Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP, our family law attorneys believe the practice of law is about helping people — our clients. We understand that dealing with family issues such as divorce, child custody and child and spousal support are complex and challenging.

We are sensitive to the personal and important decisions our clients have to make. We provide you with step-by-step guidance to reach resolutions that protect the interests of you and your children. Our goal is to achieve the best result for you in the most practical and timely manner possible.

Whether skillfully negotiating on your behalf or tirelessly fighting for your rights in court, our family attorneys have earned outstanding reputations as tenacious advocates, advisers and creative out-of-the-box thinkers. We offer steadfast counsel in matters regarding:

- Divorce and separation
- Child custody
- Equitable distribution and alimony
- Child support and spousal support
- Same sex dissolution
- Restraining orders
- Separation agreements
- Name change
- Property settlement agreement
- Mediation assistance
- Arbitration services

Obermayer is a full-service law firm with more than 100 attorneys working in a broad range of practice areas. The attorneys from our family law group draw on the exceptional resources within the firm to handle complex family law matters. When appropriate, we work closely with our tax, trust and estate, corporate and real estate attorneys to achieve the best result for your divorce.

Contact one of Obermayer's family law attorneys in Pennsylvania or New Jersey at:

One Penn Center
1617 John F. Kennedy Blvd., 19th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1895
Phone (215) 665-3000
Fax (215) 665-3165
100 Four Falls Corporate Center

1001 Conshohocken State Rd., Suite 313
West Conshohocken, PA 19428
Phone (610) 825-3634
Fax (610) 825-4549
Woodland Falls Corporate Park

200 Lake Drive East, Suite 110
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
Phone (856) 795-3300
Fax (856) 795-8843

www.obermayerfamilylaw.com

- Make sure that you and your attorney have the same goals and objectives.
- Make sure it is clear on how the process is going to progress. A schedule will make this clear, and enable you to keep in constant contact with one another.
- Be able to supply the information needed to successfully handle the case.
- Have a clear understanding of the costs and billing procedures.
- If you do not understand something or disagree with something, make sure you speak up.

Financial Issues

“Is there still alimony in New Jersey?”

Joseph Cadicina, a family lawyer in Morristown, answers:

There has been much discussion and attempts to modify the alimony statute in New Jersey. In fact, the New Jersey Legislature recently proposed bills in both houses: the assembly proposed Assembly Bill number A3909 and the senate proposed Senate Bill 82750. The proposed bills were intended to revise the alimony laws — including eliminating permanent alimony and establishing guidelines for the duration and amount of alimony awards.

The New Jersey State Bar Association opposed the legislation. In addition, the New Jersey Association of Justice also testified against the bills. Both organizations propose that a commission study be established in order to review the legislation in order to properly address the concern and issues.

The proposed legislation was based on the Massachusetts alimony statute. The key components to the proposed legislation were intended to establish a standard by regulating the amount of limited duration alimony one would receive to 30-35% of the difference between the parties’ gross incomes

established at the time of the initial award.

In addition, the term of the limited duration alimony would be based upon the number of years married. For example, if the parties were married or in a civil union for five years or less, the alimony would not be greater than one-half of the number of months of the marriage or civil union. If the parties were married or in a civil union for more than five years and less than ten years, then the alimony term would not be greater than 60% of the number of months of the marriage or civil union. If the parties were married for more than ten years but less than 15 years, the term would be not greater than 70% of the number of months of the marriage or civil union. If the marriage or civil union was greater than fifteen years, but less than 20 years, then the alimony term would not be greater than 80% of the number of months of the marriage or civil union. Finally, if the duration of the marriage or civil union is greater than 20 years, the court shall have discretion to award alimony for indefinite length of time.

The proposed legislation also sought to limit rehabilitative alimony to a term not to exceed five years unless:

1. there were unforeseen events preventing the payee from being self-supporting at the end of the term,
2. the payee endeavoured to become self-supporting, and
3. extending rehabilitative alimony would not constitute an undue burden on the payor.

The proposed legislation also sought to clarify cohabitation as a basis for a change of circumstance by allowing the court to modify, suspend, or terminate an award of limited duration of alimony when the payor ex-spouse or ex-partner shows the payee has maintained a cohabitation relationship with another person for a continuous period of at least three months.

However, the award could be reinstated upon termination of the

cohabitation relationship. If reinstated during the duration of the award, then the duration could not be extended beyond the termination date of the original order. The bill also sought to define the period of cohabitation as a continuous period of at least three months.

Another important alimony issue that the Legislature attempted to clarify was retirement as a basis for termination of alimony. The proposed legislation called for the termination of alimony upon the payor spouse or partner obtaining full retirement age defined as when the payor is eligible for the old-age retirement benefit under the Federal Social Security Act. This would have made alimony automatically terminate upon retirement instead of requiring the filing an application with the Court for a termination upon retirement.

The future for alimony in New Jersey is still under review, but for now, the current alimony statute remains in effect.

“Does one spouse moving in with a boyfriend or girlfriend affect alimony? If you’re divorced with children and move in with a new partner, does the ex-spouse still need to pay alimony and child support?”

Shari Veisblatt, a family lawyer in Cherry Hill, answers:

Generally, the answer is yes. In New Jersey, most cases do not go to trial, which means that they settle by way of what’s called a Property Settlement Agreement, and most parties will agree that alimony can terminate for a number of instances: for example, they will agree that the death of either party or the remarriage of the recipient spouse will terminate the alimony.

In New Jersey, moving in with a boyfriend or a girlfriend is called cohabitation. Our case law says that you may review alimony at that time, and if you’re able to prove that the recipient spouse is cohabitating with a boyfriend



Finnerty, Canda & Drisgula, P.C.

“We
guide you
through
the
process”

Two years into his career as a journalist, John E. Finnerty found himself facing an important life decision. “I was offered a job at the New York Post,” he recalls. “But suddenly, it occurred to me that I didn’t want to sit back and just report the news: I wanted to be at the forefront, making policy, and helping decisions come out the right way, instead of just watching them come out.”

Finnerty knew that law could provide him with this opportunity. After graduating from Rutgers Law School in 1972, he clerked for a NJ Supreme Court Justice and made another decision: to concentrate in family and matrimonial law. “I was assigned cases dealing with the initial constitutional challenges to, and interpretation of, the then-recently passed NJ statute on equitable distribution,” he recalls. “I was attracted to matrimonial law because it involved the representation of individual human beings during an emotional time in their lives. In addition, I felt that the field would provide me with an opportunity to help create and shape principles regarding the equitable distribution statutes.”

Since 1973, this NJ attorney continues to offer the clients his unique historical perspective on the development of matrimonial law in New Jersey. Together with fellow principals, Marilyn J. Canda, Candice L. Drisgula, Paul J. Concannon and the firm’s two other experienced attorneys, Finnerty tries to help his clients make informed and rational decisions that are not fuelled by passion, rage, emotion, or anger. “We are psychologically sophisticated and compassionate, but we mince no words. We tell our clients what we think in view of the facts they present, the law, and our sense of what the provable truth may be. After helping clients define their objectives, we chart a course with them, and are tireless, but sensible, advocates on their behalf.”

A highly respected Certified Matrimonial Law Attorney since

1998, Finnerty has tried and litigated many precedent-setting NJ cases, including *Lepis v. Lepis* and *Nehra v. Uhlar*. In 1998 he was awarded the Saul Tischler award by the New Jersey State Bar Association, which recognized a lifetime of contributions to the advancement of family law in NJ. He also served as Chairman of the NJSBA Family Law Section for the 1993-94 term. He has been a member of the NJ Supreme Court Family Part Practice Committee for eleven, two year terms and was Chair of that Committee’s Subcommittee on Custody and Parenting from 2002 through 2008.

Finnerty has been peer review designated as an AV Pre-eminent Attorney for 30 years by Martindale Hubbell (www.martindale.com/Products_and_Services/Peer_Review_Ratings.aspx). He has been selected by his peers each year since 2005 for inclusion in Woodward White’s list of “Best Lawyers in America” for Family Law (www.bestlawyers.com/About/MethodologyBasic.aspx). During that same time, Finnerty has also been consistently included in the “New Jersey Super Lawyers” list for Family Law by Thomson Reuters and *New Jersey Monthly*. (www.superlawyers.com/about/selection_process.html). In addition, the firm includes three lawyers who, since 2012, either have been designated on the “Super Lawyers” or “Rising Stars” lists for Family Law by Thompson Reuters and *New Jersey Monthly* (www.superlawyers.com/about/selection_process.html). *No aspect of the above information has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey, but the methodology used in connection with the accolades referenced is available for inspection from the indicated websites of each organization.*

If you are looking for experience, knowledge, and caring representation from attorneys at the forefront of their profession, look no further than the law firm of Finnerty, Canda & Drisgula, P.C.

For more information
or to schedule
an appointment,
please contact:

Finnerty, Canda & Drisgula, P.C.
www.familylaw-nj.com
17-17 Route 208 North, Fair Lawn NJ 07410
Phone: (201) 845-4000 • Fax: (201) 845-6799

or a girlfriend and they're living in a relationship that may amount to a marriage — meaning they're sharing expenses and child-rearing duties, they're taking out the trash, they're doing all of that fun stuff that you do in a marriage — then the court may review the alimony award. At that point, the court can determine whether you need to go to trial to change the amount from what you and your former spouse originally agreed to (or what the court ordered), or if the alimony should be reduced or even terminated without the need for a trial.

So the mere act of moving in with a boyfriend or a girlfriend does not in and of itself terminate alimony; there are other factors that the court needs to consider. Certain agreements may specifically agree that moving in with a boyfriend or a girlfriend will have no affect on alimony, but that's a personal decision that each party can make when negotiating his or her settlement agreement.

A word of warning: these judgment applications can be very expensive, because sometimes private investigators are required to look into whether or not the parties are actually cohabiting, whether the new boyfriend or girlfriend is still maintaining a separate residence and not contributing to your ex's household expenses, or whether the new resident is just a temporary housemate (no marriage-like relationship involved).

“What is Equitable Distribution?”

Bari Zell-Weinberger, a family lawyer in Parsippany, answers:

Equitable distribution is a method for dividing marital property during a divorce that takes into account what each spouse contributed to the marriage and what each spouse will need to move forward. An equitable property division is one that is fair, but not necessarily equal. Most common-law states follow equitable distribution rules. New Jersey is one of these

states. Other states follow community property rules, which generally require a 50/50 equal division of marital (or “community”) property.

Equitable distribution in New Jersey applies only to marital assets and marital debts, which means (with limited exceptions) all assets and debts acquired by either or both spouses during the marriage. The Courts also recognize that marriage is a partnership, and non-monetary contributions to property — such as a homemaker or a stay-at-home parent — are generally valued equally with monetary contributions. Individual gifts from people other than the spouse, inherited assets, and assets and debts either spouse brings into a marriage are generally considered to be separate property. Separate property is generally not subject to equitable distribution.

As outlined in N.J.S.A. 2A:34-23.1, New Jersey judges can consider a long list of statutory factors in deciding what constitutes an equitable distribution, including how long the marriage lasted, marital standard of living, and each spouse's age, health, and ability to maintain a reasonably comparable standard of living.

By law, New Jersey judges may also consider any factor that is relevant to the circumstances of an individual case. However, one thing not normally considered relevant is marital fault (such as adultery) unless it's proven that one spouse clearly wasted or “dissipated” marital assets, or otherwise engaged in obviously egregious financial behavior.

“Where one party owns a business, can an equitable distribution or support award be modified post-judgment in the still-lagging economy?”

Judith S. Charny, a family lawyer in Mount Laurel, answers:

In a divorce, marital assets are distributed between the parties in what is called “equitable distribution”. While

the economy still lags in Southern New Jersey and elsewhere in the United States, it is still difficult (but not impossible) to modify the equitable distribution ordered in the Final Judgment of Divorce after the fact as a post-judgment application or motion. Despite the devaluation of business and real-estate assets over the past several years, clients remain bound to the value assessed for equitable distribution at the time of divorce settlements. That's why it is so critically important to work with your attorney and select the right expert for any business or real-estate assets. The value of a business is in one way or another related to the income or cash flow generated by the business. The expert's determination of reasonable compensation is critical in the valuation process, and also to the determination of the other main issue in most divorces: support, since alimony and child support are based on the income of both parties.

“Do I really need to use a financial advisor for my divorce?”

Noah Rosenfarb, a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Divorce Financial Analyst® in Short Hills, answers:

You only need to use a financial advisor for your divorce if you have questions or concerns about money or if money is an issue in your divorce (i.e. alimony, child support, and division of assets or liabilities). For those individuals who want expert tax and financial advice, not just legal advice, a financial advisor can be very helpful. There are a few things to consider in finding the right fit for you:

1. How much is at stake – thousands? Hundreds of thousands? Millions?
2. How much will the advisor get paid – when and how?
3. What is the typical client of the advisor? How similar are you to that client?
4. What is the education of the advisor? Experience? Credentials?
5. Do you feel comfortable with the advisor?

Your Case is Important to Us!



STANDING (L TO R): Rawan Hmoud; Neil S. Braun, Of Counsel; Jill D. Turkish; Hon. Thomas P. Zampino (Ret.), Of Counsel; Tracey Alfano; Scott D. Danaher, Partner; Ashley R. Vallillo; SEATED: Stacey A. Cozewith, Partner; Angelo Sarno, Partner; Edward S. Snyder, Partner; INSET: John J. Trombadore, Of Counsel

At Snyder & Sarno LLC, our experienced and compassionate lawyers know that the divorce process can be emotional, stressful and painful.

That is why our practice is devoted exclusively to family and matrimonial law, so that we can give you the personal attention, expert guidance and dedicated support you need to successfully make it through your divorce — and into your new and better life ahead.

In addition to our exclusive focus on family and matrimonial law, here are some of the key reasons why clients across New Jersey choose us:

- **Proven Experience:** Our lawyers have decades of experience, and are relentlessly dedicated to their clients, their practice, and the continual study and research of family and matrimonial law.
- **Total Personal Attention:** We work with you every step of the way, and customize our approach and strategy to the unique needs of your case. We know that no two divorces are 100% alike. You will always be treated as our most important client, and never as a “case” or a “file.” In addition we will make sure you receive representation from the lawyer who you choose to hire, and not someone assigned to your case.
- **Responsive & Accessible:** We pride ourselves on being responsive and accessible. Your calls and emails will be promptly returned, and your questions will be thoroughly and clearly answered.
- **Knowledge & Insight:** We have the cutting-edge knowledge and insight it takes to resolve your important issues in the most effective and efficient manner possible. Angelo Sarno and John J. Trombadore are both Certified Matrimonial Attorneys by the Supreme Court of New Jersey. We are ready and willing to take on novel and complex legal issues, and have argued them before federal and state courts, including the Supreme Court of New Jersey.
- **Focusing on Your Success:** You can depend on us to work extremely hard to provide you with the most favorable outcome and resolve your issues as swiftly and smoothly as possible. We will zealously strive to help you take advantage of mediation and dispute resolution alternatives. However, when necessary and in your best interests, we will aggressively prepare for trial and fearlessly fight for your rights in court.

“Our lawyers understand that the process of divorce can be the most difficult time in our clients’ lives. That’s why we work closely with them, and treat their case as if it were our most important priority — because it is!”

Contact us today to get the experience, attention and care you deserve. Your case is important to us!



Roseland

425 Eagle Rock Ave., Ste 101
Roseland, NJ 07068
Tel.: (973) 274-5200
Fax: (973) 274-5202

Somerville

1 Eastern Ave., Ste 2W
Somerville, NJ 08876
Tel.: (908) 927-0200
Fax: (908) 927-0207

Hackensack

Court Plaza North, 25 Main St. 6th Fl.
Hackensack, NJ 07601
Tel.: (201) 488-3366
Fax: (201) 488-1366

www.matrimoniallawnj.com
dramos@matrimoniallawnj.com

Children's Issues

“What are my chances of getting custody of our children, or at least being able to see them half the time?”

Peter Paras, a family lawyer in Red Bank, answers:

Children are not property. Therefore, you or your spouse's rights are not the most important factor: the legal standard in deciding custody is the children's best interests.

Since the children's best interests govern the decision, just about any fact that is relevant to their best interests will be considered by the court in reaching a decision. This means that your chances of getting custody are going to be governed by the specific facts in your case. No two cases are alike: they are all unique.

You can enhance your chances by hiring a good, experienced lawyer who has successfully handled many custody cases. He/she will assess the facts in your particular case and will advise you how to best proceed. This may entail hiring experts to conduct evaluations, or hiring private investigators. It may involve engaging in mediation.

Every case is different and the prospects of success vary widely. Carefully select an attorney, tell him/her the whole story (good and bad parts), then follow his/her advice. In this way, you can maximize your chances of getting custody.

“My ex has married a wealthy man; can I stop making child support payments?”

John Finnerty, a family lawyer in Fair Lawn, answers:

No. According to New Jersey law, the duty to support children until emancipation — irrespective of marital status — is not only fundamental, it is also referred to as a basic principal of

natural law. It is also at the heart of the “best interest of the child” standard that governs decisions in the family courts.

In setting a support award, in cases in which both parents' combined net income does not exceed \$2,900 after-tax income per week, a Child Support Guidelines worksheet is used. Included in the guidelines is income from both parents from all sources, so that the child benefits from the total income of both parties, and then this sum is allocated proportionately between the parents. However, if the parties joint weekly net income exceeds \$2,900 per week, the court will consider the statutory factors, which include the needs of the child, standard of living and economic circumstances of each parent, and all sources of income and assets of each parent.

The amount of child support that is to be paid is not based upon the level the child enjoyed while his parents were married. Children are entitled to live post-divorce in a way that reflects one or both of their parent's good fortune. This is why the court may consider all sources of income and assets of both parents including, but not limited to, a parent's inheritance and personal-injury proceeds.

Since the duty to pay child support belongs to both parents, if the recipient spouse marries a wealthy person, it does not excuse the payor spouse from supporting his child. In addition, subsequent spouses do not have an obligation to pay child support to child that is not their own. However, if the non-parent's new spouse's income is available to the parent, then that may impact how much of the parent's income is available for above Guidelines support.

Therefore, regardless of whom the recipient spouse marries, in general, the duty to support your child is absolute and will always be enforced. It is also important to note that it is the right of the child to receive this support; generally, no party can waive that right on behalf of the child.

“My spouse and I have agreed to divorce and have reached an agreement on how we will care for our children. Do we need a written agreement — and if so, can we create it ourselves?”

Scott D. Danaher, a family lawyer in Roseland, answers:

The fact that you and your spouse have reached an agreement on how you will care for your children is an accomplishment. In addition to being emotionally and financially draining for parents, litigating custody and parenting-time issues can have a profound negative effect on children.

While you do not need a written agreement, it is strongly recommended that you have one. Although you can prepare the written agreement yourselves, it is strongly recommended that you consult with an attorney. The details of what is stated and what is not stated in the written agreement can be pivotal if issues arise in the future. For example, in the absence of an explicit provision in the written agreement detailing how medical decisions will be made for a child, the custodial parent is presumed to have greater knowledge regarding the child's need and is generally given the right to choose. This is also the case when it comes to detailing how the child's religion will be determined. These are just two of the infinite list of examples that exist. In most circumstances, it is beneficial to have a detailed written agreement addressing all conceivable issues.

“How do I mediate support for my special-needs child?”

Linda Spiegel, a family lawyer and mediator in Hackensack, answers:

According to recent statistics, a quarter of U.S. households have a member with special needs. More than 8% of kids under 15 have a disability, and half of those are deemed severe.

If you have a child with special needs, you should give that information



Einhorn Harris
attorneys at law

The Partners of the Firm:
Theodore E.B. Einhorn, Peter T. Harris, Michael R. Ascher, Patricia M. Barbarito, Bonnie C. Frost, Gary R. Botwinick, Stephen P. Haller, Thomas J. Snyder, Mark Wechsler, Andrew S. Berns, Christopher L. Musmanno, Jason R. Rittie

EINHORN, HARRIS, ASCHER, BARBARITO & FROST, P.C.

Every Step Of The Way

EACH DIVORCE PRESENTS UNIQUE ISSUES. The more complex the case, the more issues arise. Finding one lawyer who has expertise in these areas can be difficult, but Einhorn, Harris, Ascher, Barbarito & Frost, P.C. can solve this problem for you: they offer an experienced team of lawyers covering the full spectrum of family law.

With 18 matrimonial attorneys in their matrimonial law department, this firm tackles cases from the most simple to the most complex. Each attorney in the department concentrates on a particular area. Fees are based on the particular lawyer's level of experience. A divorcing client who comes in with a fairly straightforward matter enjoys the benefit of having an experienced matrimonial lawyer work on his or her case at a very reasonable rate. A client with a complicated case can take advantage of the knowledge and experience of a senior partner.

"We offer our clients a team approach," says Patricia Barbarito, a partner in the matrimonial department at Einhorn. "Teams are assigned to complex matters to ensure that clients' phone calls are returned promptly, that routine work is done at an associate's billing rate, and that the strategy and major decisions are undertaken by a more experienced lawyer."

Barbarito, a certified matrimonial lawyer and former chair of the Family Law Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association, is the 2004 recipient of the Tischler Award, presented by the New Jersey State Bar Association for lifetime contributions to the advancement of family law. She has been with the firm for the last 33 years.

"Our practice is general, but we are not general practitioners," says Barbarito. "A matrimonial case often involves other legal issues that can be addressed by an attorney in one of our departments — such as

taxation/trusts & estates, business/commercial, real estate, criminal, or personal injury."

The firm's philosophy is unique in that each case is analyzed and an action plan is formulated, so that the case doesn't develop a "life of its own." "Our experience and training enable us to approach issues in a very clear and organized fashion," says Barbarito.

The matrimonial attorneys in this firm know that divorce is a major life transition, and they strive to make the process as straightforward and painless as possible for each of their clients.

The firm's policy is to attempt to resolve cases by negotiation first, but they are not reluctant to defend their clients' rights in court. "We always make every effort to settle a case, but we are trained advocates and are prepared to litigate a case if need be," says Barbarito.

The law firm has been providing clients with high-quality, cost-effective legal services since 1961. Located in Denville, the hub of Morris County, this full-service law firm employs attorneys with a wide range of experience. Their team of experienced lawyers seeks to provide the understanding, personal involvement, and objectivity necessary to address their clients' unique legal issues.

For more information, or to book a consultation, contact Patricia Barbarito at:

Einhorn, Harris, Ascher, Barbarito & Frost, P.C.
Every Step of the Way

165 East Main Street, P.O. Box 3010, Denville, NJ 07834-3010
(973) 627-7300

info@einhornharris.com
www.einhornharris.com

to your mediator at your initial consultation session. It will enable the mediator to work with you and your spouse to construct a child support solution that will be in the best of interest of your special-needs child rather than only using the Child Support Guidelines' "fill in the blanks" scenario.

The mediator will need to know the specific special need or needs and what is currently being done by you, your spouse, or others, to assist your special-needs child. Is the child taking medications on a regular basis? What is the name of the medication and the reason for the prescription? Does the child receive therapy? What is the type of therapy and the reason the therapy was recommended and initiated? Does the child have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) at school? Show the IEP to the mediator. Does the child have any issues at school such as poor grades, behavior problems or social problems? Does your child have limitations on his/her activities? What are the limitations and why have the limitations been implemented? Answers to all these questions will allow the mediator to understand your situation.

In addition to the general medical and psychological information about the particular special need, the mediator needs to know how the child's special need impacts the family financially. You should be prepared to provide the mediator with costs for caregivers, health insurance, non-covered medical costs, modifications of the family home and vehicle. Be prepared to discuss how caring for the child impacts on the work schedule for both parents. All this information is necessary in reaching a financial outcome for you and your spouse that will take into account the best interest of the child. If you have not dealt with these financial issues prior to meeting with the mediator, consultation with a financial planner who is a specialist in special-needs cases will be of great assistance during the mediation. Your mediator should be able to assist you in finding such a financial planner.

LESLIE LAW FIRM L.L.C. *Family Law Attorney*



P.O. Box 1309
222 Ridgedale Avenue
Third Floor
Morristown, NJ 07962
Tel: 973 631 8002
Fax: 973 984 1478

aleslie@leslielawfirm.com

Exclusive practice focused on family law.

Divorce is an emotional time in your life. Your situation is unique, and your case is important. Whether your issues concern custody, spousal or child support, domestic violence, equitable distribution, or civil unions, Ms. Leslie's experience and resolve to putting her clients' rights first will help you achieve the best possible outcome in your divorce.

- Attentive
- Experienced
- Knowledgeable
- Compassionate

Member of the New Jersey State Bar Family Law Section, Morris County Bar Association, American Inns of Court.

www.leslielawfirm.com

Have the Right Attorney Review Your Case Today

Since 1985, the Law Office of Janet L. Porro has been handling family law issues, ranging from uncontested marital and partnership dissolutions to complex litigation. Ms. Porro is licensed to practice in New York and New Jersey and offers legal services in:

- Divorce
- Domestic violence
- Child custody, removal of children from their State of residence, inter-state custody battles
- Parenting time and visitation rights
- Alimony, child support, modification applications
- Sexual abuse and child abuse
- Pre-nuptial agreements, partnership agreements and parenting agreements
- Mediation as a means of alternative dispute resolution

Law Office of Janet L. Porro
973-692-0010 | www.porrolaw.com

New Jersey Office:
20 Lincoln Park Road
Pequannock, NJ 07440

New York Office:
4888 Route 52
Jeffersonville, NY 12748

After meeting with the financial planner, you and your spouse should be able to provide the mediator with a list of costs pre-existing the divorce and a projection of costs subsequent to the divorce arising out of your child’s special needs. A typical list might include “therapy, equipment, medications, supplements, dietary costs, sensory items, respite care, professionals, modifications to the home environment . . . transportation to out-of-town hospitals or sources of treatment or care, extra laundry, babysitting of siblings while the needs of the special needs child are being addressed” and adult assistance to complete activities of daily living such as “toileting, eating, bathing, grooming, dressing, communicating, mobility and behavior management,” according to Margaret Price in “Special Needs and Disability in Custody Cases: The Perfect Storm” (Family Law Quarterly, Summer 2012).

This financial data is necessary, together with the household income and any governmental assistance available to you for your child’s special needs, in order to intelligently discuss child support.

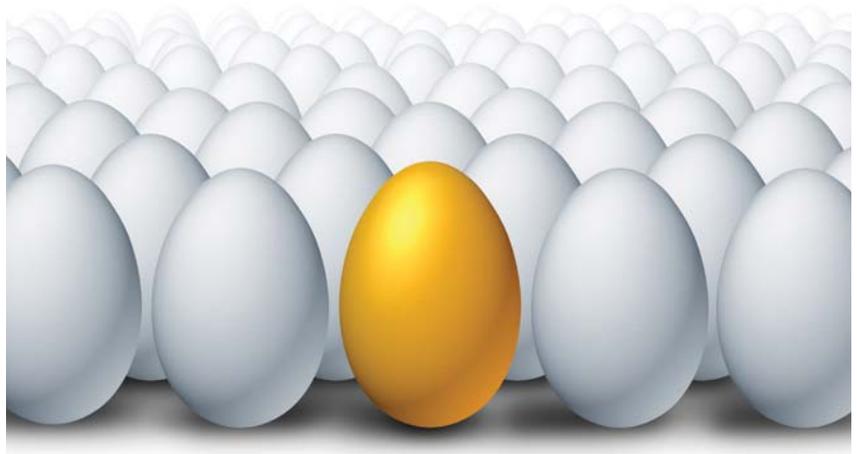
Mediation Issues

“If both lawyers are settlement-minded, is there any point in spending more money on a mediator?” David Salvaggio, a family lawyer and mediator in Morristown, answers:

The idea of utilizing a divorce mediator is to avoid, when possible, the need to use the services of two lawyers — one for each party — to gather the facts required for the negotiation of an amicable settlement of their marital disputes.

A divorce mediator, like a divorce lawyer, charges for his or her services on an hourly-fee basis. Unlike a divorce lawyer, however, a divorce mediator meets with both parties at the same time. Therefore, in the initial meeting, a divorce mediator can more efficiently elicit from the parties, in each other’s

Divorcing people are looking for family lawyers.



If you’re a family lawyer, we can help you stand out and be chosen.

Let Us Be Your 24/7 Marketing Department

We have been marketing **family lawyers** for 17 years. We’ll show you how to increase your presence and credibility online and offline, so you can generate more quality leads and turn prospects into clients.

Our Products

- Divorce Magazine
- Family Lawyer Magazine
- 9 Divorce Guides
- Divorce eNewsletter
- DivorceMagazine.com
- FamilyLawyerMagazine.com
- BlogsOnDivorce.com
- MarriageandSeparation.com

Our Services

- Website design, hosting, SEO and traffic generation
- Mobile website design
- Design print ads, firm brochures and logos
- Marketing consulting
- Podcast marketing
- Social media marketing

Call (866) 803-6667 Ext. 124
DanC@DivorceMarketingGroup.com



Advisory Board

presence, their incomes, expenses, assets, and liabilities. By contrast, even if both lawyers are settlement-minded, each party must incur the cost of meeting with his or her own lawyer, and then having the lawyers exchange the relevant information.

Not only does mediation streamline the information-gathering process and thereby result in reduced expenses to the parties, it also streamlines the settlement process. The parties can discuss the amicable resolution of any potential disputes without having to incur the additional expense of using each of their lawyers as a conduit for their concerns.

Mediation does not eliminate the need for each party to consult with an experienced divorce lawyer, who will evaluate the proposed settlement from the client's perspective. One or both of the parties may also wish to consult with an experienced divorce lawyer during the course of the mediation to obtain legal advice regarding a difficult issue. However, using the services of a mediator is money well spent in any case where the parties need to identify potential issues. ■

For more FAQs and answers by divorce professionals, please visit www.divorcemag.com.

The answers provided above are for general education only and may not apply to your unique situation. They should *not* be considered to be legal, accounting, tax, or other professional advice nor construed as a form of lawyer-client relationship. This information does not take the place of a lawyer, accountant, financial planner, therapist, etc.; for professional advice, you *must* seek counsel from the appropriate professional.

Divorce Magazine would like to thank the following members of our NY/NJ Advisory Board for their help in making the magazine such a valuable resource for our readers. Visit www.divorcemag.com to see our full list of Advisory Board members.



Lizanne J. Ceconi is a founding member and managing partner of Ceconi & Cheifetz. She is the 2013 Tischler Award recipient, the highest award in family law in NJ. She is a former Chair of the NJSBA Family Law Section. Since 2008, she has been selected by her peers to be included in the Best Lawyers in America®. Ceconi has practiced law since 1982 and has been certified as a mediator since 1993. (908) 273-6300
firm@ccfamlaw.com
www.ccfamlaw.com



John E. Finnerty, Certified Matrimonial Attorney, has tried and litigated many precedent-setting NJ cases, including *Lepis v. Lepis* and *Nehra v. Uhlar*. He has served on the Supreme Court Family Part Practice Committee for eleven, two year terms and was Chair of that Committee's Sub-Committee for Custody and Parenting Time from 2002 through 2008. He is also the former chair of the Family Law Section of the NJ State Bar Association and was awarded the Saul Tischler Award by the NJSBA for a lifetime of contributions to family law. He also is a frequent lecturer for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education and regularly publishes articles pertaining to family law. (201) 845-4000
jfennerty@familylaw-nj.com
www.FamilyLaw-NJ.com



William M. Laufer is a member in the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. He serves on the Morris County Bar Association Early Settlement Panel and is a Master in the Family Law Inns of Court. He is past president of the Morris County Bar Association and President of D.A.R.E., NJ. (973) 285-1444
wlaufer@lauferfamilylaw.com
www.lauferfamilylaw.com



Peter C. Paras has practiced matrimonial law since 1977. Mr. Paras is a Fellow of the AAML and a former member of the Executive Committee of the Family Law Section of the NJ State Bar Association.

He is a partner in family law firm Paras, Apy & Reiss. Peter has lectured for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education, the American Trial Lawyers Association and the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and has written articles for various legal publications. (732) 219-9000
pparas@parasapyreiss.com
www.PAR-Law.com



David F. Salvaggio is a family law attorney based in NJ. After graduating from Rutgers Law School in 1977 and completing a judicial clerkship for a NJ Superior Court trial judge, Mr. Salvaggio embarked upon a career in the private practice of law that has now encompassed 35 years. (973) 415-5340
dfs@salvaggiolaw.com
www.salvaggiolaw.net



Stephen I. Silberfein is a leading matrimonial practitioner in Manhattan. With nearly 40 years experience in family law, he is an accomplished litigator, who successfully resolves the vast majority of cases out of court. He is involved in matrimonial committees and bar associations at the local, state and national level. He is currently on the roster of neutral evaluators in the Matrimonial Neutral Evaluation Program and fee dispute program, and gives lectures in all areas of Family Law and Matrimonial Law. (212) 755-3200
stephen@newyorkdivorce.com
www.NewYorkDivorce.com



Bari Zell Weinberger is the Managing Partner of Weinberger Law Group, the largest divorce and family law firm in NJ. She is a Certified Matrimonial Attorney, family law mediator, and the Associate Author of the NJ Family Law Practice, a five-volume reference guide used by virtually every family law judge and lawyer in NJ. Bari is recognized as an expert family law attorney and has been featured on many leading local and national media outlets, including CBS, ABC, News Channel 12 and the Wall Street Journal. (888) 888-0919
Bari@wlg.com
www.weinbergerlawgroup.com

Top Ten Tips

Here's the inside scoop on how to save on legal fees in a divorce.

By Linda C. Senn



When it becomes clear that your marriage is over, and no amount of pre-tense or counseling can fix what is broken, you'll need to line up an attorney to represent you in the divorce process. At this extremely vulnerable time, you'll be placing your life and your future in your attorney's hands, and you'll add one more worry to your ample list of stresses – the high cost of divorce!

Attorneys usually charge an hourly rate calculated in 15-minute increments – even if the service takes only a minute or two of his time. That “quick little call” you make to your lawyer could cost you from \$50 and up. If you succumb to the temptation to call every day, your monthly charge just for phone calls can run well over \$1,000. If the process drags on for a year, you'll pay \$12,000 and up just for those brief daily calls!

Here are ten simple steps for saving big bucks over the course of separation and divorce; some of the tips are general and can be applied to other legal situations as well.

- 1. Saving money on legal fees starts before you have your first attorney interview.** Round up all the personal referrals you can from friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors who were happy with their own divorce lawyers. Ask if the client's calls were returned in a timely manner, or if sustained nagging was required to get a call-back. The bill should run far less for a focused, efficient attorney than it would for a disorganized one. Did that attorney stall or delay the process? Did she favor lengthy debates between opposing attorneys? Was her billing accurate, detailed, and free from “fluff?” These factors can have a major effect on the final cost.
- 2. During your initial telephone interview with the attorney, ask what he charges and how the fee is calculated.** Is it a flat hourly fee charged in 15-minute increments, or is it figured by some other method? Ask if he requires an initial retainer, and if so, how much for your situation. Complex divorces often call for a more substantial amount. Tell the lawyer that you want to keep the costs to a reasonable minimum and ask if he'll help you to do so.



EXPERIENCE. COMMITMENT. SUCCESS.

HOW WE ARE REALLY DIFFERENT.

At Salvaggio Law Group LLC, we realize that each person's situation is unique and that you deserve to be educated on all of your options. These options include not only the traditional Litigation approach — which will frequently generate higher lawyer's fees, take longer and cause more conflict than other available ways to attempt to resolve your dispute — but also non-adversarial dispute resolution methods such as Collaborative Practice and Mediation.

That's why, at Salvaggio Law Group, you'll find:

- **A CLIENT FOCUSED APPROACH** where the client's needs — not our profit — come first.

We realize that your divorce is unique. We also realize that it's not just a set of legal papers; it's a major life transition. That's why we take the time — before we do anything else — to understand your situation, your needs and your goals. We then provide you with the individualized services you need and help you through your divorce in the way that's best for you and your family.

- **AN INDIVIDUALLY CUSTOMIZED FEE STRUCTURE** which is right for your situation.

After many years of experience handling New Jersey Divorce and Family Law matters, Salvaggio Law Group believes that both the lawyer and the client should focus on the quality of the lawyer's services, rather than the amount of time which the lawyer has spent. Therefore, in the appropriate case, we offer fixed fee billing options.

- **ONGOING ACCESSIBILITY** to our Legal Professionals, who will take the time needed to keep you advised every step of the way.

When you hire Salvaggio Law Group LLC, you work directly with a team of legal professionals, which is headed by David Salvaggio and also includes another attorney and a legal assistant. You don't just deal with a secretary; you deal with the decision makers, the professionals who play the key roles in your case.

We value our clients' trust, and we work tirelessly to continue to earn that trust every day.



SALVAGGIO LAW GROUP LLC

A LAW FIRM DEVOTED
EXCLUSIVELY
TO DIVORCE AND
FAMILY LAW MATTERS

65 Madison Avenue, Suite 210
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

877-739-0684

Fax: (973) 455-1601

www.salvaggiolaw.net
dfs@salvaggiolaw.com

3. **Don't discuss the weather, the baseball playoffs, or your mother's petunias: chit chat is expensive.** Even though she's holding your future in her hands, and there's a natural inclination to talk to your attorney as a friend, socializing can become expensive. Allow a brief time to reconnect either in person or over the phone, then get on with business. By the same token, if you have a gabby attorney, learn how to gently but firmly bring her back to the business at hand.
4. **Although you may find a genuinely sympathetic attorney, don't use him as a counselor.** Go to a licensed therapist. An experienced mental-health professional will be more effective, will cost less per hour, and will help you deal with the emotional peaks and pits that continually throw you off balance. In addition to that, you'll have developed a relationship with a therapist who can guide you through the rocky recovery period after the divorce is granted.
5. **Don't ask for special paperwork.** Whenever possible, run your own copies, take notes when you talk to your attorney on the phone (so you don't have to call him later to double-check on the conversation), and look up any phone numbers and addresses he may need in working up your case.
6. **Don't complain about your soon-to-be-ex unless it directly applies to the current procedure.** This is so very tempting during divorce (and subsequent custody and/or maintenance hearings)! You feel compelled to point out how moronic and venal your soon-to-be-ex is, and by implication, how much better a human being you are. Resist the urge. It's both pointless and expensive.
7. **If you invite your attorney to lunch (or vice-versa), find out first if it will be "on the clock."** There may be times when a luncheon meeting is most convenient for both of you – just be sure you know the ground rules going in. If you'll be discussing business, have a pen and paper with you so the lunchtime information doesn't disappear with the last cup of coffee. Be especially vigilant about idle chatter if you're paying attorney's fees for the privilege.
8. **Ask for specific ways you can save on lawyer hours, such as doing your own research, filling out forms, or mailing notices.** You just might be able to shave a few hundred dollars off the final tab by doing some of the routine clerical work yourself. In a long, drawn-out divorce, ask the lawyer periodically if there are any other aspects you can take care of yourself to save money.

9. **Consider hiring a skilled mediator to help you and your spouse arrive at mutually agreeable solutions to your financial and custody disagreements.** Mediators are specifically trained to help you resolve your problems together, and the cost will probably be less that you'd pay for the opposing attorneys to argue with each other. (You'll still need to retain your own lawyer to check any agreement before you sign it, however.) Mediators also allow you to employ cooperation and compromise in arriving at a settlement agreement, which leaves far less emotional scarring than the adversarial attorney-to-attorney method.
10. **Do your own Discovery.** Discovery is basically pre-trial disclosure of pertinent facts and documents, including financial figures, by one or both parties in a divorce or other legal process. It can involve a fair amount of sleuthing time, so you'll be money ahead if you ferret out the hard-to-find information (like hidden assets), rather than relying on your attorney to do it all.

One last word about maintaining control of your legal expenses: request itemized monthly bills from your attorney. Knowing just how your legal dollars are being spent can be the most effective aid in helping you keep them to a reasonable minimum! ■

Linda C. Senn is author of Your Pocket Divorce Guide and co-author with Mary Stuart, M.A. of The Divorce Recovery Journal.

Related Articles

Dealing with Legal Fees

Understand fee arrangements and be aware of how to keep your legal costs reasonable.

www.divorcemag.com/articles/Divorce_Lawyers/financial-matters-legal-fees.html

Can't afford to hire an attorney for your entire case?

Divorce coaching might be the right option for you.

www.divorcemag.com/articles/Separation_Divorce_Process/cant-afford-to-hire-an-attorney.html

AS YOUR DIVORCE ATTORNEY WE HAVE YOUR BEST INTEREST AT HEART.

Weinberger Law Group – The perfect balance of strength and compassion from trusted authorities on New Jersey Divorce and Family Law.

Visit us online or call for a
FREE DIVORCE CONSULTATION.

WLG.com/DivorceAdvice
(888) 998-8859



OFFICE LOCATIONS:

Basking Ridge | Freehold | Hackensack | Parsippany



Weinberger
Law Group, LLC

Help and legal services for Divorce,
Alimony, Child Custody & Support,
Prenuptial Agreements, Mediation Services,
Domestic Violence Issues and more.

Exclusively devoted to New Jersey
Divorce & Family Law.
Compassionately focused on YOU.

Your best online resources before, during, and after divorce.



FAMILY LAWYERS

ALBERTA - CANADA

Westbrook Law & Mediation Centre
(780) 424-1212
adorczak@telus.net
www.divorcemag.com/AB/pro/alberta-divorce-lawyer-mediator-1.shtml
Divorce Lawyer and Mediator.

BRITISH COLUMBIA – CANADA

Kahn Zack Ehrlich Lithwick LLP
(604) 270-9571
amulder@kzellaw.com
www.kzellaw.com
Innovative solutions for your family law matters.

CALIFORNIA

Brandmeyer Gilligan & Dockstader, LLP
(562) 431-2000
info@bgdlawyers.com
www.bgdlawyers.com
The largest family law firm in the greater Long Beach/South Bay area.

Feinberg, Mindel, Brandt, & Klein

(310) 447-8675
smindel@fmbklaw.com
www.fmbklaw.com
L.A. firm that demands quality work from its versatile team of family law attorneys.

Feinberg & Waller A.P.C.

(800) 655-4766
www.feinbergwaller.com
Experienced lawyers practicing exclusively in family law with integrity.

Freid & Goldsman A.P.L.C.

(310) 552-2700
mfreid@fglegal.com
www.fglegal.com

Experience and skill enable them to obtain favorable results.

Fuller Jenkins

(858) 450-4050
efuller@fullerjenkins.com
www.fullerjenkins.com
Their lawyers work with you to create a strategy that best fits the needs of your family.

Harding & Associates

(925) 417-2202
jharding@hardinglaw.com
www.hardinglaw.com
Helping clients get the results they are entitled to.

The Law Office of Ilona Antoyan

(619) 696-1100
ilona@antonyanlaw.com
www.expertdivorcelaw.com
Aggressive, professional and reliable representation.

CONNECTICUT

Rutkin Oldham & Griffin, LLC

(203) 227-7301
soldham@rutkinoldham.com
www.rutkinoldham.com
In-depth knowledge and dedication to handle the most challenging family law cases.

FLORIDA

Stephen T. Holman P.A.

(850) 435-6909
sth@stephenholman.com
www.stephenholman.com
Experienced family lawyers who have nearly five decades of experience.

GEORGIA

Cauthorn, Nohr & Owen

(770) 528-0150

te@cauthornnohr.com
www.cauthornnohr.com

Dedicated to the highest standard of ethics and effective client representation.

Daniels & Taylor, P.C.

(770) 962-4070
contactus@danielstaylor.com
www.danielstaylor.com
Focusing on your rights while maintaining high standards of professionalism and integrity.

ILLINOIS

Badesch Abramovitch

(312) 372-1639
tina@bafamilylaw.com
www.bafamilylaw.com
Helping men, women and children resolve family law issues in Chicago and the Collar Counties.

Boyle & Feinberg, P.C.

(312) 376-8860
joy@boylefeinbergfamilylaw.com
www.boylefeinbergfamilylaw.com
Mediation, collaborative divorce and litigation services in Chicago & Arlington Heights.

Jeffrey W. Brend

(312) 726-4440
j.brend@levinbrend.com
www.levinbrend.com
Forensic divorce attorney “We find money.”

Karen Covy

(312) 236-1670
karen@karencovy.com
www.karencovy.com
Lawyer, mediator, speaker, and author.

Jay A. Frank

(312) 828-9600



Back Row (L TO R): James C. Jensen, Christine M. Dalena Esq., William M. Laufer, Kimberly N. Gronau Boyd, Michelle A. Benedek, Joseph P. Cadicina
Front Row: John J. Harper, Gregory D.R. Behring, Emily R. Cartensen, Alexis Nicole Laufer, Mario L. Delmonaco, Laurence J. Cutler

LAUFER, DALENA, CADICINA, JENSEN & BOYD, L.L.C.

Experienced Family Law Attorneys

The lawyers at Laufer, Dalena, Cadicina, Jensen & Boyd, L.L.C. are well-respected leaders in family law. In the past year, several of our attorneys, including William M. Laufer, Christine M. Dalena, Joseph P. Cadicina, James C. Jensen, Kimberly N. Gronau Body, Laurence Cutler, Michelle A. Benedek, Terryann Bradley, Alexis Laufer and Mario N. Delmonaco have received honors and accolades. Our lawyers belong to virtually every lawyer organization dealing with matrimonial law and have been leaders in those organizations.

One of northern New Jersey's premier family law firms, Laufer, Dalena, Cadicina, Jensen & Boyd, L.L.C. is committed to pursuing the best reasonable results for clients. Handling a full range of family law issues with a focus on divorce and dissolution of civil unions, its lawyers carefully explore available legal options. The particular circumstances of each case dictate the most appropriate strategy, whether it is an alternative dispute resolution, such as mediation or arbitration, or aggressive trial preparation.

Laufer, a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers has served as Morris County Bar Association president. Dalena is a court-approved mediator and a collaborative law attorney. Cadicina has significant family law experience, is a court approved mediator and lectures frequently throughout the state on family law issues. Jensen focuses on matrimonial and family law but also handles civil and criminal matters. Cutler is the co-author of the state's leading treatises in the area of family law. Also, Kimberly N. Gronau Boyd, Michelle Benedek and Terryann Bradley handle complex family law litigation. Associates Mario N. Delmonaco, Alexis Laufer, Gregory D.R. Behringer, Carly DiFrancisco and Ellen M. Seigerman have years of family law experience and are known for their knowledge and expertise.

The firm also has Retired Morris County Superior Court Judge John J. Harper of counsel to perform mediation and arbitration services.

LAUFER, DALENA, CADICINA, JENSEN & BOYD, L.L.C.
23 Cattano Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960 • PH: (973) 285-1444 • FX: (973) 285-0271
www.lauferfamilylaw.com • jcadicina@lauferfamilylaw.com

jfrank@agdgllaw.com
www.agdgllaw.com

Experienced family law attorneys who handle each case in a cost-effective way.

LeVine, Wittenberg, Shugan & Schatz
(708) 444-4333
attorney@lwslaw.com
www.lwslaw.com
Protecting Illinois families since 1968.

INDIANA

Broyles, Kight & Ricafort P.C.

(317) 571-3601

nricafort@bkrlaw.com

www.bkrfamilylaw.com

Integrity (Skill+Trust+Reason)=BKR Family Law.
Finding solutions together.

LOUISIANA

Remy Law Firm

(985) 893-0610

mremy1@cox.net

Professionals dedicated to the practice of family law.

MARYLAND

Brown Goldstein & Levy LLP

(410) 962-1030

dwm@browngold.com

www.browngoldfamilylaw.com

Experienced family lawyers who provide guidance to a new path in your life.

MICHIGAN

The Gucciardo Law Firm, PLLC

(248) 723-5190

renee@gucciardofamilylaw.com

www.gucciardofamilylaw.com

Quick and efficient resolutions that preserve your financial and emotional resources.

NEW JERSEY

Ceconi & Cheifetz, LLC

(908) 273-6300

firm@ccfamllaw.com

www.ccfamllaw.com

Summit family law firm.

Charny, Charny & Karpousis P.A.

(856) 505-1700

jcharny@charnylaw.com

www.charnylaw.com

South Jersey divorce and family law firm

with aggressive advocacy and a practical mindset when it counts.

Pamela M. Copeland

(908) 561-6800

pcopeland@copelandlawnj.com

www.copelandlawnj.com

The highest quality divorce legal services at a reasonable cost.

Einhorn, Harris, Ascher, Barbarito & Frost, P.C.

(973) 627-7300

lgerber@einhornharris.com

www.einhornharris.com

Divorce, separation, child custody, domestic violence, and appeals.

Finnerty, Canda & Drisgula, P.C.

(201) 845-4000

jfinnerty@familylaw-nj.com

www.familylaw-nj.com

Legal representation in all aspects of family law.

Janet Porro

(866) 787-2982

janetporro@porrolaw.com

www.porrolaw.com

Experienced New Jersey and New York family lawyer.

Laufer, Dalena, Cadicina, Jensen & Boyd, LLC

(973) 285-1444

jcadicina@lauferfamilylaw.com

www.lauferfamilylaw.com

Accomplished family lawyers who will give you peace of mind.

Leslie Law Firm L.L.C.

(973) 631-8002

aleslie@leslielawfirm.com

www.leslielawfirm.com

Known for experience and a compassionate approach to family law.

Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP

(856) 795-3300

info@obermayer.com

www.obermayerfamilylaw.com

Responsive attorneys. Respected work. Effective results.

Paras, Apy & Reiss, P.C.

(732) 219-9000

pparas@parasapyreiss.com

www.par-law.com

Red Bank family law firm that takes a unique approach to each case.

Salvaggio Law Group LLC

(973) 415-5340

dfs@salvaggiolaw.com

www.nj-divorce.net

Divorce litigation and mediation services throughout New Jersey.

Stolfe & Zeigler, Counselors At Law

(732) 240-9555

szeigler@szllawfirm.com

Provide skilled, experienced and individually suited legal representation.

Weinberger Law Group LLC

(888) 998-8859

contactus@weinbergerlawgroup.com

www.wlg.com

Trusted authorities on New Jersey divorce and family law.

NEW MEXICO

Atkinson & Kelsey, P.A.

(505) 796-6238

www.atkinsonkelsey.com

Pioneers in New Mexico family law and divorce representation.

NEW YORK

Law Offices of Stephen I. Silberfein, P.C.

(212) 755-3200

stephen@newyorkdivorce.com

www.newyorkdivorce.com

Manhattan matrimonial firm handling all family law matters.

OKLAHOMA

Echols & Associates

(405) 691-2648

dweatlaw@aol.com

www.echolslawfirm.com

More than 100 years of combined legal experience in family law.

ONTARIO - CANADA

Devry Smith Frank LLP

(416) 449-1400

john.schuman@devrylaw.ca

www.devrylaw.ca



Left to right: Patricia E. Apy, Michael J. Fleres, Bonnie M.S. Reiss, Elissa A. Gross, Peter C. Paras

A Unique Approach to Each Case

PARAS, APY & REISS, P.C. was formed in 1996 by Bonnie Reiss, Patricia Apy and Peter Paras to better serve the needs of their clients in New Jersey and in interstate and international family law disputes. The firm is devoted solely to family law matters. Mrs. Reiss, Mrs. Apy and Mr. Paras share the belief that their clients are best served by a firm whose lawyers, staff and philosophy center on representing the unique needs of separating and divorcing couples. Since its founding, our family law attorneys at Paras, Apy & Reiss, P.C. have remained true to three guiding principles:

1. All divorce cases are unique and require an approach that is tailored to their characteristics. A “cookie-cutter” approach will never do.
2. Communication between lawyer and client is essential to attaining the client’s goals in a fair and reasonable manner. Only when the firm and its clients communicate effectively can their shared goals be achieved.
3. There is no substitute for preparation. Preparation is knowing the case better than anyone else in the room (whether courtroom or conference room) and is what creates the position of strength from which positive results flow.

In 2003, Paras, Apy & Reiss, P.C. was named to the Bar Register of Preeminent Law Firms by Martindale-Hubbell and has maintained that rating every year since. Our firm’s family law attorneys are members of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, the International Academy

of Matrimonial Lawyers, the American Bar Association, the New Jersey State Bar Association and several county bar associations and have been named “Super Lawyers” by New Jersey Monthly Magazine every year since 2005.

Frequently, firm lawyers are called upon to teach at Continuing Legal Education seminars, to write articles on a myriad of family law issues and to comment on current family law topics. They have also been asked to serve on prestigious legal boards and committees on the national, state and local levels.

The attorneys at Paras, Apy and Reiss, P.C. have vast experience representing family law clients in divorce, custody, domestic violence and financial disputes. They work as a team with knowledgeable and sophisticated paralegals to represent their clients in an intelligent, professional and ethical manner at all times. The wealth of experience gained over many years of practice provides a valuable resource to firm clients and often is an important factor in their achieving favorable results.

The firm also represents clients in mediation and arbitration and our attorneys serve as mediators and arbitrators in cases involving child custody, businesses, professional practices and other complex financial issues. The office is well equipped to provide privacy and comfort to both sides in a mediation, arbitration or negotiation.

Paras, Apy & Reiss, P.C.

The Galleria, 2 Bridge Ave., Ste. 601, Red Bank, NJ 07701
Tel.: (732) 219-9000 Fax: (732) 219-9020

familylaw@parasapyreiss.com
www.par-law.com



Download their handbook
“Divorce: A Guide to the Process”
free of charge from
www.par-law.com

Focusing on children's issues and financial matters in family law.

Epstein & Associates

(905) 898-2266
mark@epsteinlaw.ca
www.epsteinlawyers.com

Our commitment is to provide guidance and understanding to each client's situation.

Nathens Siegel LLP

(416) 222-6980
info@nathensiegel.com
www.nathensiegel.com

Family law specialists who are results driven.

PENNSYLVANIA

Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP

(215) 665-3000
info@obermayer.com
www.obermayerfamilylaw.com

Responsive attorneys. Respected work. Effective results.

QUEBEC - CANADA

Azran & Associés Avocats Inc.

(514) 499-2010
gazran@azranassociates.com
www.azranassociates.com

Montreal lawyers with expertise in a wide range of practice areas.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The Law Offices of Lester & Hendrix

(803) 252-4700
ken@kenhlestler.com &
catherine@kenhlestler.com
www.lesterandhendrix.com

A team approach to family law cases.

TEXAS

John K. Grubb & Associates

(713) 877-8800
jgrubb@grubblegal.com
www.johnkgrubb.com

Aggressive representation in family law matters in the Houston area.

Loughmiller Higgins

(972) 529-5554
eric@loughmillerhiggins.com
www.loughmillerhiggins.com

Experienced divorce attorneys dedicated to helping you navigate your legal roadmap.

Short•Carter•Morris, LLP

(713) 626-3345
pcarter@shortcartermorris.com
www.shortcartermorris.com

Experienced in high net worth and complex divorces.

FINANCIAL ADVISORS

NORTH AMERICA

Institute for Certified Divorce Financial Analysts™

(239) 280-2308
bradc@institutedfa.com
www.institutedfa.com

National organization dedicated to the certification, education, and promotion of financial professionals in the divorce arena.

ALBERTA - CANADA

Alberta Divorce Finances

(403) 703-7176
Sharon@AlbertaDivorceFinances.com
www.albertadivorcefinances.com

Certified Divorce Financial Analyst® and tax consultant.

CALIFORNIA

Cathleen Collinsworth

(949) 262-3692
info@cccdfa.com
www.cccdfa.com

CDFATM, business valuation, taxation, collaborative divorce, mediation and litigation support.

CONNECTICUT

CohnReznick

(413) 233-2313
Steven.Dane@Cohnreznick.com
www.cohnreznick.com

One-stop source for business valuations, litigation support and financial advisory services.

FLORIDA

Roderick C. Moe CPA, PA

(561) 649-5109
rod@rodmoecpa.com
www.rodmoecpa.com

CPA® who will help you get your fair share.

Valuation & Forensic Partners, LLC

(847) 805-1910
bruffalo@forensic-valuation.com

www.forensic-valuation.com

Experienced, nationally-recognized valuation and forensic experts.

ILLINOIS

Balasa Dinverno Foltz, LLC Private Wealth Management

(630) 875-4904
HLocus@BDFLLC.com
www.bdfllc.com

They manage more than \$2 billion in assets for high net worth individuals.

CJBS, LLC

(847) 945-2888
larry@cjbs.com
www.cjbs.com

We will help you get to the bottom of your spouse's finances.

CohnReznick

(312) 508-5824
Bruce.Richman@Cohnreznick.com
www.cohnreznick.com

One-stop source for business valuations, litigation support and financial advisory services.

Linda Forman, CPA, P.C.

(847) 316-1040
lforman@cpa@aol.com
www.divorcecpachicago.com

They will do everything it takes to get you the best financial settlement.

Valuation & Forensic Partners, LLC

(847) 805-1910
bruffalo@forensic-valuation.com
www.forensic-valuation.com

Experienced, nationally recognized valuation and forensic experts.

PENNSYLVANIA

Loretta Hutchinson

(267) 202-5158
loretta@financialdivorceplan.com
www.financialdivorceplan.com

Certified Divorce Financial Analyst® who makes intelligent divorce possible. (PA, NJ, FL)

INSURANCE

U.S.A

Family ValueGuard

(800) 696-1791
ken@familyvalueguard.com

Ready to cut the cake?



Let a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst® help.

- Make smart financial decisions about how to divide your marital property
- See what your financial future will look like if you choose "Settlement A" over "Settlement B"
- Understand spousal and child support
- Avoid tax and insurance pitfalls



Divorce is hard enough. Let us help you understand the scale.



Institute for Divorce
Financial Analysts™
We take your future into account.®

www.InstituteDFA.com

www.familyvalueguard.com

Insurance that protects support payments against unexpected disabilities.

MEDIATION

ILLINOIS

C.E.L. & Associates

(866) 922-4733

bjames@celandassociates.com

www.yourdivorce.org

Bridging the gap between conflict and resolution.

PENSION VALUATION & QDRO SERVICES

PAC/Pension Analysis Consultants, Inc.

(800) 288-3675

pac1@pensionanalysis.com

www.pensionanalysis.com

Pension valuations and QDROs in divorce since 1988.

Voit Econometrics Group, Inc.

(239) 596-7711

vecon@comcast.net

www.vecon.com

Specializing in QDROs and valuation of pensions for divorce.

PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS

NEW YORK

T&M Protection Resources, LLC

(212) 422-0000

investigations@tmprotection.com

www.tmprotection.com

A global provider of premium security and investigative services.

ONTARIO - CANADA

RISK Private Investigations

(647) 478-8376

pkopelis@riskprotectiongroup.com

www.riskprotectiongroup.com

Toronto based investigations.

SOCIAL MEDIA

blogsondivorce.com

facebook.com/divorcemagazine

twitter.com/divorcemagazine

marriageandseparation.com

Got Questions?

How much will my divorce cost?

Who gets what?

What will happen in court?

Do I have to pay alimony forever?

Shouldn't I get more child support?

Will I have sole custody?

What if I don't want to sell my home?

50/50 isn't fair?

How do I find a good lawyer?

We Have Answers!

Divorce Blog Discussion Forum

Free Divorce TeleSeminars

Divorce FAQs Videos

Books Divorce eNewsletter

Subscription to Divorce Magazine

Podcasts Articles Websites



Read & Connect With Others On
www.DivorceMag.com

Victimhood

The Curse of Divorce Recovery

By Shelley Stile

Feeling like or labelling yourself a victim of your divorce is one of the most disastrous moves you can make; it will prevent you from moving forward into a new life. Victimhood renders you powerless. To create a new life after your divorce, you need to be fully responsible for your past, present, and future. Being responsible means having control over your life, and that is what it takes to both recover from the emotional wounds of a divorce as well as plan for your new life.

If you consider yourself a victim, then you believe that you had little to do with what happened to you. You take no responsibility. The responsibility is someone else's, and that leaves you with no power. Victims blame someone else. Blame absolves them of their part in the dissolution of their marriage, and it keeps them stuck in the pain of the past and their divorce.

It is so much easier to place blame on someone else than accept personal responsibility. The fact is that two people inhabit *all* marriages. Those two people are co-creators of their marriage and their divorce. Even if one of the partners was unfaithful or a liar, there are always signs along the way that we either refused to see or to acknowledge. If we are in denial about all the warning signs along the way, we can only look to ourselves for lack of some responsible action.

“If you consider yourself a victim, then you believe that you had little to do with what happened to you.”

Blame leads to resentment. Resentment consumes our mind chatter. We spend far too many hours ruminating about all the things that our ex has done or continues to do to us. We resent their new life and our lack of one. Consider the amount of time wasted being in resentment. Exactly who suffers? The answer of course is clear: you. *You* are the one who is angry, sad, bitter, and unhappy — *not* your ex. Your blame and resentment, along with your regrets, are like poison in your system. It completely immobilizes you.

Ten tips to help you overcome these feelings of victimhood:

1. What is the truth of your marriage? If you are completely honest and courageous, you will have begun to recognize that indeed, you played an integral part in your marriage and divorce. All too often, we interpret events and situations in our marriage and believe our interpretation to be the truth. For instance, “My husband was cheating and lied to me about it. I interpret that to mean that I am no longer desirable, that I failed as a wife. I live in my marriage as if that is a cold, hard fact.” It is not. The fact is that he cheated. Period. That fact could

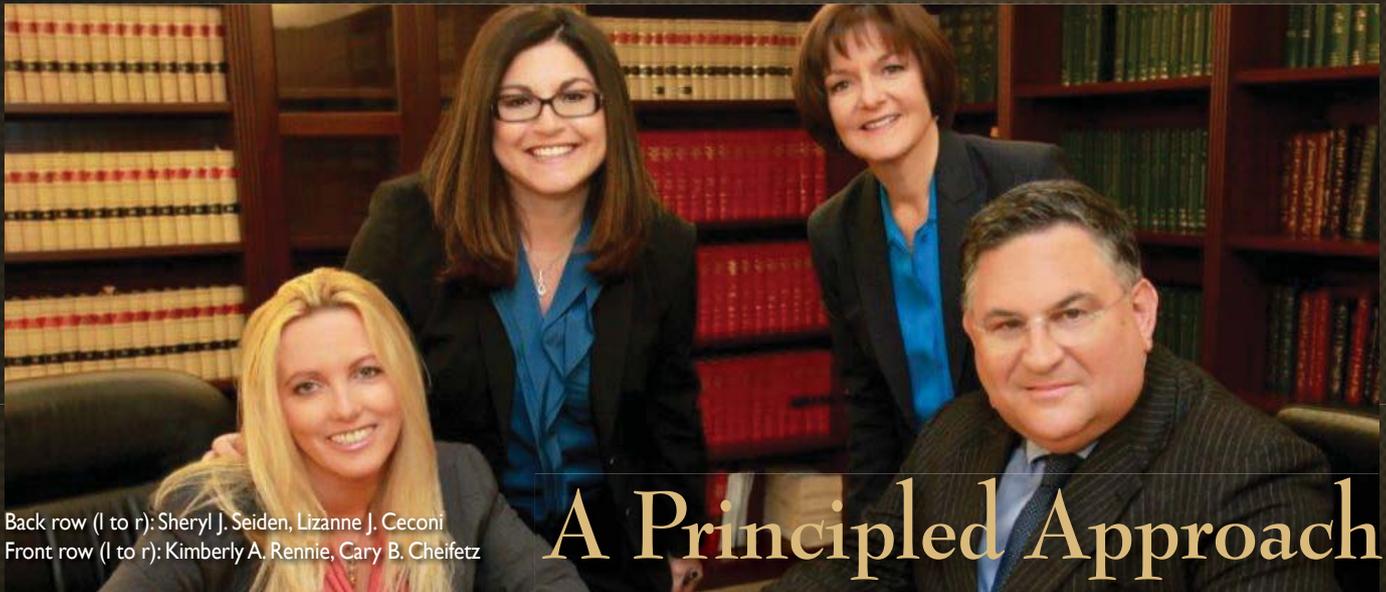
mean a hundred different things. Stick to the facts.

2. Where are you responsible? What were the warning signs along the way that you refused to acknowledge? Where were you in denial? Where were you an enabler? For example, I know a woman who was completely surprised when her husband left her. She went on to tell me that she always gave him total freedom to do whatever he wanted: trips that lasted a month at a time, and little or no responsibility in rearing their children are just a couple of items on the list. She handled it all. Translation: she was an enabler and gave him the rope that was needed to strangle the marriage. Acknowledge where you didn't do what you needed to do. Accept responsibility. Responsibility is empowerment.



CECONI & CHEIFETZ, LLC

Attorneys at Law



Back row (l to r): Sheryl J. Seiden, Lizanne J. Ceconi
Front row (l to r): Kimberly A. Rennie, Cary B. Cheifetz

A Principled Approach

There's something unique about a law firm, or any company for that matter, where one of the initial tasks of the founding partners was to set down their operating principles and a mission statement. There's also something particularly telling about a firm that begins its list of principles by stating: "We distinguish ourselves by satisfying our clients with great caring service and developing strong client relationships. Therefore, we try our best to respond to client inquiries the same day when possible."

Client service is just as important for the Summit, New Jersey based firm of Ceconi & Cheifetz, LLC as its ten operating principles. When Lizanne J. Ceconi and Cary Cheifetz founded the firm in 1999, there were just three lawyers. Now there are ten, a number Ceconi believes is "just right." With that number, she says, "we've got tremendous depth and differing levels of experience and expertise, so that we can provide really good service to clients and still keep it personal." And, Cheifetz adds, at that size, "you can offer diversity, without it being a place where you don't know who's going to return your call. You can still provide personal service."

Which leads to operating principle number 2: "Our staff is our most important resource and the backbone of our success. We select, train, develop, and motivate each person to be the best. If our staff is successful, we are successful. We are a team, and we support each other and work together to achieve common goals." The result, says Ceconi, is that they

can draw on the expertise and experience of all in the firm when necessary. "This is all about what's best for the client, not what's best for an individual attorney."

For the attorneys at Ceconi & Cheifetz, helping clients during a stressful period to see what is happening, realize what it is that they want, and get on their feet again is an important goal, which points to operating principle number 5: "We communicate leadership, vision, strategies, goals, and ideas." An attorney who exhibits these traits is invaluable. "We try to come up with creative solutions and to help them prioritize," says Cheifetz. "I think one of the most important things is helping a client decide what they really want, and then we figure out how to get that for them."

Arriving at a satisfactory end result may necessitate the use of outside experts such as family therapists, real-estate appraisers, accountants, and firms that do business evaluations. And whenever necessary, Ceconi & Cheifetz can turn to a well-considered roster of professionals.

In all its years, Ceconi & Cheifetz has developed a reputation for being honest, respectful, and effective, but it is the final paragraphs of the firm's mission statement that truly explains the reasons for its success. It is "our personal commitment to our client. That commitment is a pledge to counsel, to educate, and to work together to achieve realistic goals and objectives. We want to make a difference in each client's life."

It's an approach that seems to be working.

For more information, or to book an appointment, please contact:

Ceconi & Cheifetz, LLC
www.ccfamlaw.com • firm@ccfamlaw.com

25 Deforest Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901
Phone: (908) 273-6300 • Fax: (908) 273-4797

3. Exactly what are you resisting? Why can't you see the truth and accept responsibility? Why do you suppose you cannot accept the reality of your life as it is now? These are questions you must address. What do you gain by remaining a victim? Are you afraid of facing the truth? Are you living in what you think should be versus what is? Do you enjoy being a victim? Do you like the fact that being a victim absolves you of any responsibility and therefore any positive action?

"It is so much easier to place blame on someone else than accept personal responsibility."

4. If you are resisting the reality of your life, consider doing a turn-around and simply go with the flow of your life's direction. Fighting reality is a useless business. The more you resist something, the more it will persist. Consider the flow of a river. What does it feel like to swim against the current? That is what you do when you cannot accept what is.

5. Don't allow your fear of the unknown to run you. Are you afraid of your future? Are you afraid of being alone? What exactly are you afraid of? I recently heard someone say that they spend so much time worrying and little or nothing of what they worry about actually comes true! Do you see the insanity of that? We don't know from day-to-day what the future holds for us. How about if you believed that your future was going to be just fine instead of being in fear? What if everything happens for a reason?

"Consider the amount of time wasted being in resentment."

6. Consider your perspective on life. Your attitude – what is it? Do you believe that life is hard and unjust? Do you see everything that is wrong and nothing that might be right? Not only does your attitude affect how

you handle life, it can actually determine your reality. If you believe that life is too hard, then that is exactly what life will be for you: it's a self-fulfilling prophecy.

7. Do things differently. If your victimhood along with its blame and resentment is not working for you (and I guarantee it isn't), then for heaven's sake, do things differently! Try on a new perspective. Examine the truth of your life versus your own personal interpretations. Take responsibility. Take actionable steps forward. Stop resisting. Get out and do new things, meet new people, and don't isolate yourself. Get back into the swing of things.

"You are the one who is angry, sad, bitter, and unhappy — not your ex. Your blame and resentment, along with your regrets, are like poison in your system."

8. Learn from your experience and use that new wisdom for empowerment. Once you see the life lessons of your marriage and divorce (and believe me, they are numerous and impactful), you can use that wisdom to be a better person – to help you become the person that you truly want to be. Everything that happens to us in life has a hidden lesson for us if we only look for it. Might there actually be a silver lining in this storm cloud?

9. Consider the costs of remaining a victim. Do you want to live your life as a bitter and angry person? Is that how you want to be seen? If you have children, is victimhood what you want to model for them? Do you realize that as a victim, you have *no* power to change your life? Remaining a victim is a very bleak picture.

10. Choose a new and better life. Think of all the decisions and choices you make during the course of a day. Are they moving you away from being a victim or keeping you

stuck there? Stop and think before you make important and even not so important decisions or choices. Our choices define us and determine the course of our life.

In closing, I want to share a few bits of wisdom from the Dalai Lama: When you lose, don't lose the lesson. Follow the three Rs: respect for self, respect for others, and responsibility for all your actions. Remember that *not* getting what you want is sometimes a stroke of luck. Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it. ■

Shelley Stile is a Certified Divorce Recovery Life Coach, author and speaker. Shelley has been through her own divorce and has gleaned deep wisdom from her experience. That experience, combined with her extensive training in life coaching and research, has resulted in the Divorce Recovery Plan: an empowering step-by-step actionable plan with proven strategies and tools for letting go and moving on after divorce. www.lifeafteryourdivorce.com

Related articles:

Letting Go of Your Story in Order to Heal

Move beyond the pain from the past to fully realize your future.

www.divorcemag.com/articles/Divorce_Recovery/letting_go.html

Moving Through Your Anger

It is always in your best interest to move beyond feeling high levels of anger.

www.divorcemag.com/articles/Divorce_Recovery/moving_through_your_anger.html

Ready to Give Up Your Baggage?

Make the decision to release your attachments.

www.divorcemag.com/articles/Divorce_Recovery/giveup_your_baggage.html

25 Tips for Divorced Parents

How to create special memories and strengthen your bonds with your children.

By Tommy Maloney

I was five years old when my parents divorced; coincidentally, my son was also five when his mother and I split up. While going through my divorce and travelling for work, I created the following tips from firsthand experience to help divorced parents stay connected with their kids – and to forge a positive bond in each other’s lives.

1. Talk to your kids every day

It does not matter if it is just a phone call, long or short. Kids need to hear their parents’ voice daily because it reassures them they still have a connection with you.

Tip: Don’t be afraid to ask them personal questions.

2. Send your kids postcards or letters

Do this even if you live in the same town. If they are just learning how to read, written notes to your kids are even better. Think about when you were a kid and received mail and how special you felt.

Tip: Have them write to you.

3. Purchase a webcam for yourself and your kids

This is very important if you live far away and cannot spend time with them on a regular basis.

Tip: Flip Cam for the kid(s).

4. Tell them EVERY DAY that you LOVE them

Do I really need to explain this one?

Tip: Find out what makes them feel loved – then do it.

5. Make Quality vs. Quantity time with them

You do not need to create an “event”. Just being with and talking to them is more vital than you will ever know.

Tip: Make a Gingerbread house together.





LAW OFFICES OF
**CHARNY, CHARNY
& KARPOUSIS, P.A.**

Divorce & Family Law

South Jersey Family Law Attorneys

856.505.1700

The Business of Divorce



Judith S. Charny



Karen R. Karpousis



Nancy D. Gold



Meghan E. Bradley



Michelle F. Altieri



Nicole Donoian-Pody



Erika L. Goldberg

High Quality Legal Services for Very Personal Matters

Charny, Charny & Karpousis is one of South Jersey's largest "boutique" divorce and family law firms. Our team of highly-recognized attorneys possess the skills to handle complex divorces involving business owners, executives and professionals, as well as LGBT cases, and also offer alternative dispute resolution.

Our firm offers legal representation for ALL types of family law matters including divorce, custody, child support, college issues, alimony, asset division, domestic violence, prenuptial agreements, grandparent's rights, and post-judgment modifications.

We integrate our in-depth knowledge and years of experience to provide each client with the quality guidance necessary to resolve their family law matters.

Experience and Efficiency that Counts

Our attorneys are well-respected by their peers and the judiciary, with over 130 years of combined experience navigating the New Jersey court system. We apply that experience in seeking expeditious resolutions to the difficult challenges facing our clients.

Minimizing the Impact of Divorce on Business

Our firm has significant experience counseling business owners, professionals and their

spouses facing divorce and the valuation of their privately owned businesses, real estate, and professional practices. At Charny, Charny & Karpousis we possess the necessary financial acumen and compassionate commitment required to provide legal representation to clients with substantial marital estates and to help minimize the overall impact of divorce.

Offering Litigation, Mediation, Arbitration and Collaborative Divorce Services

While our team of family lawyers are seasoned litigators, Charny, Charny & Karpousis also offers alternative services that may be more advantageous to you, including Mediation, Arbitration, and Collaborative Divorce. In the new Collaborative approach, the goal is to resolve all the divorce issues through a non-adversarial team approach while focusing on the future of the individuals and their children. Collaborative divorce keeps your private information out of the Court system, preserves your children's mental health, and allows you to better control your own destiny.

Compassionate and Practical Team Approach

Our firm's strength lies in our experience and dedication to our clients, their families, businesses, and futures. Our attorneys are good listeners and effective communicators, while being assertive, determined and practical advocates for our clients.

"In this economy, selecting an experienced and efficient divorce lawyer is more important than ever."

Judith S. Charny, Senior Partner

Contact us today for an initial consultation so we can help you take care of the business of your divorce.

Law Offices of
Charny, Charny & Karpousis, P.A.
1300 Route 73, Suite 211
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

(856) 505-1700
info@charnylaw.com
www.charnylaw.com

Our divorce lawyers represent clients in all of Southern New Jersey, including the South Jersey counties of Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic, Ocean and Mercer Counties.

6. Read to one another

Find out what they like to read and buy a few books at the bookstore. Read them one of your books, even if it does not have pictures.

Tip: Go to the bookstore together.

7. Embrace their interests no matter what they are

You need to get yourself out of your comfort zone and learn to embrace their interests – even if that means riding a roller-coaster.

Tip: Research their interests to be able to ask them questions – and understand the answers.

8. Volunteer at their school

You get to see them in their environment, which can sometimes be both shocking and embarrassing. I have learned that teachers love when a parent comes to school and lends a helping hand.

Tip: If you can't volunteer at their school, find another one of their activities to become involved in.

9. Honesty IS the best policy

This is most important when your kids tell you they wish all of you were still a family. Explain to them they will always be loved and that you are still a family.

Tip: You may need to show it and say it several times.

10. Create traditions together

Think of things that make your time together special and create your own customs separate from standard holidays.

Tip: What traditions did you have as a kid?

11. You are not the victim

I advise you to see a trusted counselor to help you work through your emotions. Do *not* use your kids for this!

Tip: Take control of your own healing.

12. Respect the rules

Teach them there are rules in your house just like at the other parent's house.

Tip: Have your own rules, but try to respect the other household's rules as well.

13. Two words: Road Trip

Take vacations – even if it is just a weekend in a hotel down the street. Kids love to be in a hotel with a pool.

Tip: Try setting up a tent in the living room once in a while.

14. Understand that they will miss their mom or dad – and that is okay

The bond between kids and their other parent may be different than the one they will have with you. Focus on strengthening your bond with them and try not to compare yours with the other parent's.

Tip: Kids will naturally cycle from one parent to another. Be patient – your turn will come.

15. Let your kids see that you are not perfect

It is okay to admit to your kids that you try your best but can't be perfect.

Tip: This will teach them how to handle their own mistakes.

16. Teach them the importance of being physically active

Encourage your kids to ride their bikes alongside you as you run, or go biking together. Being a role model is tough, but suck it up.

Tip: Your kids want you to be around for a long time.

17. Be in contact with their teachers

Try not to be a pain, but do be an involved parent. Though you won't always get a solid answer, ask your kids how school is going and contact their teachers for updates.

Tip: Kids need both of their parents to be involved.

18. Respect that your favorite sports team is not always going to be theirs

Heck, they might not like the same sports you do or even like sports at all! Enjoy what they *do* like and embrace those things with them.

Tip: You can always watch your sports when they are back at the other parent's house.

19. When you ask them to make their beds, you also need to do the same

Kids want discipline and you need to set the example.

OBERMAYER

REBMANN MAXWELL & HIPPEL LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

info@obermayer.com
www.obermayerfamilylaw.com

Responsive Attorneys.
Respected Work.
Effective Results.



At Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP, our family law attorneys believe the practice of law is about helping people — our clients. We understand that dealing with family issues such as divorce, child custody and child and spousal support are complex and challenging.

We are sensitive to the personal and important decisions our clients have to make. We provide you with step-by-step guidance to reach resolutions that protect the interests of you and your children. Our goal is to achieve the best result for you in the most practical and timely manner possible.

Whether skillfully negotiating on your behalf or tirelessly fighting for your rights in court, our family attorneys have earned outstanding reputations as tenacious advocates, advisers and creative out-of-the-box thinkers. We offer steadfast counsel in matters regarding:

- Divorce and separation
- Child custody
- Equitable distribution and alimony
- Child support and spousal support
- Same sex dissolution
- Restraining orders
- Separation agreements
- Name change
- Property settlement agreement
- Mediation assistance
- Arbitration services

Obermayer is a full-service law firm with more than 100 attorneys working in a broad range of practice areas. The attorneys from our family law group draw on the exceptional resources within the firm to handle complex family law matters. When appropriate, we work closely with our tax, trust and estate, corporate and real estate attorneys to achieve the best result for your divorce.

Contact one of Obermayer's family law attorneys in Pennsylvania or New Jersey at:

One Penn Center
1617 John F. Kennedy Blvd., 19th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1895
Phone (215) 665-3000
Fax (215) 665-3165
100 Four Falls Corporate Center

1001 Conshohocken State Rd., Suite 313
West Conshohocken, PA 19428
Phone (610) 825-3634
Fax (610) 825-4549
Woodland Falls Corporate Park

200 Lake Drive East, Suite 110
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
Phone (856) 795-3300
Fax (856) 795-8843

www.obermayerfamilylaw.com

When they are at your place, have chores for them to do just as they do at the other parent's house.

Tip: Kids need normalcy between the two houses.

20. Fast food is too easy

Doing things such as cooking together is a great learning experience for both of you. Make the fast food runs only on special occasions.

Tip: Home cooking is less expensive and healthier, too.

21. Have sleepovers with their friends

When possible, have their friends over for playdates and sleepovers. It is a special feeling for your kids to show off their bedroom.

Tip: It's a great way to learn about their friends.

22. Take the high road

If your former spouse is not being reasonable, or if you are being hard-headed, remember it is not about winning disagreements – it's about successful co-parenting. Co-parenting is about the kids.

Tip: You won't regret taking the high road in the long run.

23. You need to be a positive role model

Though actors, musicians, and sports stars are modern role models, the bottom line is to fill that role yourself and be there for them.

Tip: Do your best to be involved with their lives and be a positive influence.

24. Do not be hung up on dating right away after a divorce

Work on *yourself* before bringing someone new into the equation. Kids need to know they are your highest priority.

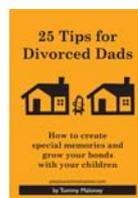
Tip: There is someone out there for you, but just make sure they are the right one for you and your kids.

25. Help make your house a home for all of you

Kids need to have some of their own "treasures" around to be comfortable at your place.

Tip: Take the time to learn from your past mistakes, so you don't repeat them. ■

This article has been adapted with permission from the book *25 Tips for Divorced Dads* © 2011 Tommy Maloney.



Tommy Maloney is a speaker, consultant and author. He is a member of the National Speakers Association and the Colorado Speakers Association. www.tommy-maloneyinternational.com

[maloneyinternational.com](http://www.tommy-maloneyinternational.com)

Related articles:

Letting Go of Your Story in Order to Heal

Move beyond the pain from the past to fully realize your future.

www.divorcemag.com/articles/Divorce_Recovery/letting_go.html

Moving Through Your Anger

It is always in your best interest to move beyond feeling high levels of anger.

www.divorcemag.com/articles/Divorce_Recovery/moving_through_your_anger.html

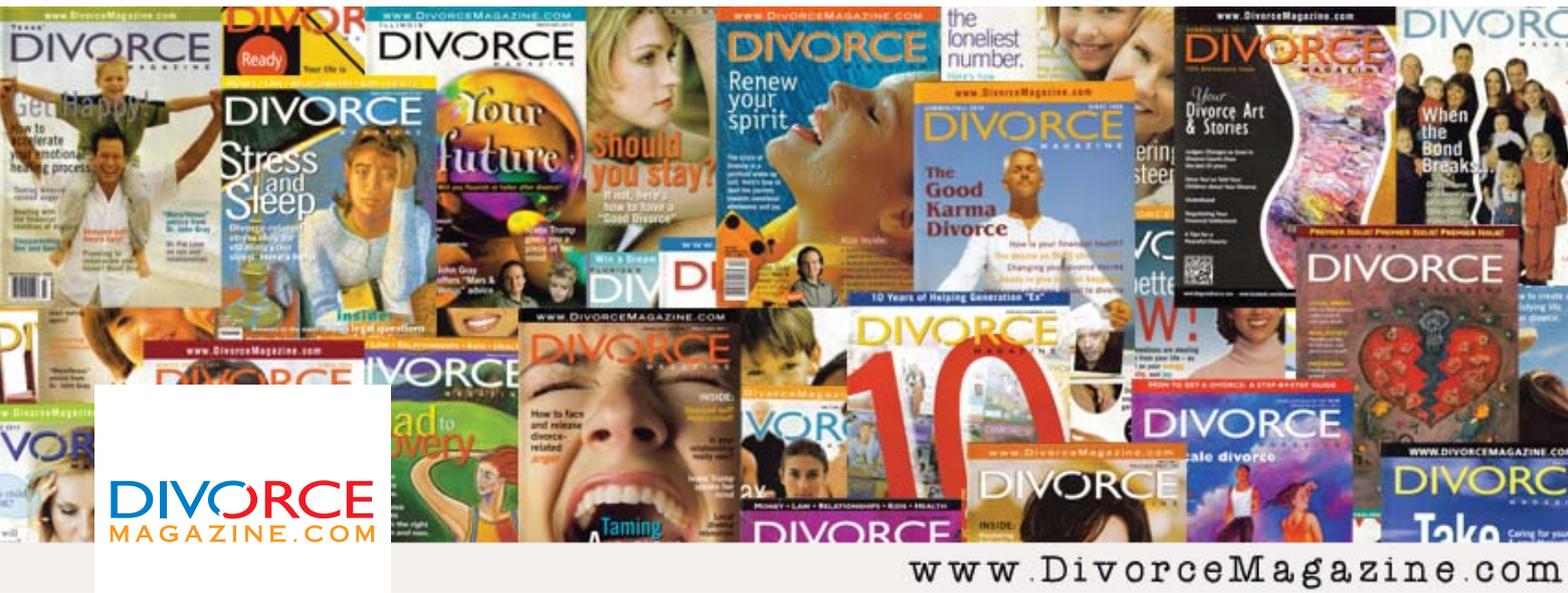
Put your ad here
and on
www.DivorceMagazine.com

Check out our special advertising packages for:



- Family Lawyers
- Family Mediators
- Financial Planners
- Certified Divorce Financial Analysts
- Certified Public Forensic Accountants
- Family Therapists
- Real Estate Agents

Contact Dan Couvrette
(866) 803-6667 Ext. 124 • danc@divorcemag.com



DIVORCE
MAGAZINE.COM

Our Facebook Fans Share

Divorce Magazine’s Facebook Fans share their thoughts about separation and divorce. To join the conversation, please “Like” our page: www.facebook.com/DivorceMagazine

Divorce Magazine: Who has helped you the most with your divorce or separation? Maybe it is a friend, a relative, a co-worker, a divorce professional, your ex?

MSH: My first job outside the home — I met a single divorced mom of 20 plus years — we were both nurses — will never forget what she shared with me — “ you cant make someone stay — and someone can not make you have a life — in other words there is life after divorce

RC: About 40,000 men and women around the world. Between sites i host or the radio show i co host they have all helped me.

HM: You’d think the \$25K I gave to lawyers would place the lawyers at top but NO. A Family Court Watcher helped me the most — Cathy Sloper — www.divorceinconnecticut.blogspot.com

DB: My life love and now my wife who I have known since I was 12.

DP: It was a lot of people from an ex to my cousin and best girlfriend.

MA: My attorney worked miracles fell in love with him and eventually dated. He sucked at relationship but he saved my life lol

CH: My friend Holly who was deep in nursing school, told me that I wasn’t crazy, and held my hand the whole time.

1,443 people saw this post 9 10 2

.....
Divorce Magazine: A fan wrote this, please provide your support:



Finnerty, Canda & Drisgula, P.C.

“We
guide you
through
the
process”

Two years into his career as a journalist, John E. Finnerty found himself facing an important life decision. “I was offered a job at the New York Post,” he recalls. “But suddenly, it occurred to me that I didn’t want to sit back and just report the news: I wanted to be at the forefront, making policy, and helping decisions come out the right way, instead of just watching them come out.”

Finnerty knew that law could provide him with this opportunity. After graduating from Rutgers Law School in 1972, he clerked for a NJ Supreme Court Justice and made another decision: to concentrate in family and matrimonial law. “I was assigned cases dealing with the initial constitutional challenges to, and interpretation of, the then-recently passed NJ statute on equitable distribution,” he recalls. “I was attracted to matrimonial law because it involved the representation of individual human beings during an emotional time in their lives. In addition, I felt that the field would provide me with an opportunity to help create and shape principles regarding the equitable distribution statutes.”

Since 1973, this NJ attorney continues to offer the clients his unique historical perspective on the development of matrimonial law in New Jersey. Together with fellow principals, Marilyn J. Canda, Candice L. Drisgula, Paul J. Concannon and the firm’s two other experienced attorneys, Finnerty tries to help his clients make informed and rational decisions that are not fuelled by passion, rage, emotion, or anger. “We are psychologically sophisticated and compassionate, but we mince no words. We tell our clients what we think in view of the facts they present, the law, and our sense of what the provable truth may be. After helping clients define their objectives, we chart a course with them, and are tireless, but sensible, advocates on their behalf.”

A highly respected Certified Matrimonial Law Attorney since

1998, Finnerty has tried and litigated many precedent-setting NJ cases, including *Lepis v. Lepis* and *Nehra v. Uhlar*. In 1998 he was awarded the Saul Tischler award by the New Jersey State Bar Association, which recognized a lifetime of contributions to the advancement of family law in NJ. He also served as Chairman of the NJSBA Family Law Section for the 1993-94 term. He has been a member of the NJ Supreme Court Family Part Practice Committee for eleven, two year terms and was Chair of that Committee’s Subcommittee on Custody and Parenting from 2002 through 2008.

Finnerty has been peer review designated as an AV Pre-eminent Attorney for 30 years by Martindale Hubbell (www.martindale.com/Products_and_Services/Peer_Review_Ratings.aspx). He has been selected by his peers each year since 2005 for inclusion in Woodward White’s list of “Best Lawyers in America” for Family Law (www.bestlawyers.com/About/MethodologyBasic.aspx). During that same time, Finnerty has also been consistently included in the “New Jersey Super Lawyers” list for Family Law by Thomson Reuters and *New Jersey Monthly*. (www.superlawyers.com/about/selection_process.html). In addition, the firm includes three lawyers who, since 2012, either have been designated on the “Super Lawyers” or “Rising Stars” lists for Family Law by Thompson Reuters and *New Jersey Monthly* (www.superlawyers.com/about/selection_process.html). *No aspect of the above information has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey, but the methodology used in connection with the accolades referenced is available for inspection from the indicated websites of each organization.*

If you are looking for experience, knowledge, and caring representation from attorneys at the forefront of their profession, look no further than the law firm of Finnerty, Canda & Drisgula, P.C.

For more information
or to schedule
an appointment,
please contact:

Finnerty, Canda & Drisgula, P.C.
www.familylaw-nj.com
17-17 Route 208 North, Fair Lawn NJ 07410
Phone: (201) 845-4000 • Fax: (201) 845-6799

"How can I be sure that I will get my fair share from my divorce? My husband owns his own business and I am a stay at home mom with 2 children (6 and 10 years old). I was never involved in his business, but I know there is a lot of cash money because it is a restaurant. I know he does not declare all his income. My divorce lawyer says he can get to the bottom of it but my husband is not very co-operative. He wants to keep the children so he does not have to pay child support. I am very concerned that I won't get custody because I can't afford to fight."

MM: I just recently got divorced. My ex and I owned our own businesses as well. I know state laws vary but you should be entitled to half of everything. As far as your children go, I have never heard of a mom losing custody unless she is deemed unfit or voluntarily gives them up. The ex and I agreed on joint custody with primary placement with me and he was ordered to pay me child support. It shouldn't matter if you can't afford to fight. That doesn't define what type of parent you are. Maybe a mediator might be a better option for you financially. Stay strong and stand your ground. Believe me... mine dragged out for 18 months and it was killing me. Don't give in to him, especially if it doesn't feel right. Divorce is brutal... you will be ok:) Good luck!

DS: First of all do you honestly believe he only wants the children for monetary reasons why can't a mother believe a father loves and wants his children.

CH: Most dads do love their kids. But some situations they don't, sadly. And hopefully the mom is seeing it correctly. I had a situation where he had 50% parenting time, and gave it up 6 months later to 13%.

Join Your Divorce Community

Aside from getting expert advice, there are times you may want to connect with real people who are going through their own divorce or have gone through a divorce. You may simply want to vent, ask some questions, get some support, share your thoughts, insights, tips or even inspire others through your own divorce story. If this sounds like you, join the Divorce Magazine Community online, where you'll connect with divorcing people 24/7 through the following:



Divorce Blog

www.BlogsOnDivorce.com

This blog features a wide range of bloggers who are seasoned divorce professionals, including divorce lawyers, therapists, and financial advisors. Read and comment on their posts written with expert opinions.



Divorce Magazine on Facebook

www.facebook.com/divorcemagazine

Join us on facebook where you will get daily posting from Divorce Magazine and be introduced to useful articles and engage in conversations from other divorcing people and divorce professionals.



Divorce Magazine on Twitter

www.twitter.com/divorcemagazine

Follow Divorce Magazine on Twitter and get the latest news on divorce and read inspirational quotes that will help you through this difficult transition.



Marriage and Separation

www.MarriageAndSeparation.com

A one of a kind social network where married, separated, and recently single people support and inspire one another to thrive! A place for you to find divorce professionals coming together and sharing their answers and experiences.

Your Case is Important to Us!



STANDING (L TO R): Rawan Hmoud; Neil S. Braun, Of Counsel; Jill D. Turkish; Hon. Thomas P. Zampino (Ret.), Of Counsel; Tracey Alfano; Scott D. Danaher, Partner; Ashley R. Vallillo; SEATED: Stacey A. Cozewith, Partner; Angelo Sarno, Partner; Edward S. Snyder, Partner; INSET: John J. Trombadore, Of Counsel

At Snyder & Sarno LLC, our experienced and compassionate lawyers know that the divorce process can be emotional, stressful and painful.

That is why our practice is devoted exclusively to family and matrimonial law, so that we can give you the personal attention, expert guidance and dedicated support you need to successfully make it through your divorce — and into your new and better life ahead.

In addition to our exclusive focus on family and matrimonial law, here are some of the key reasons why clients across New Jersey choose us:

- **Proven Experience:** Our lawyers have decades of experience, and are relentlessly dedicated to their clients, their practice, and the continual study and research of family and matrimonial law.
- **Total Personal Attention:** We work with you every step of the way, and customize our approach and strategy to the unique needs of your case. We know that no two divorces are 100% alike. You will always be treated as our most important client, and never as a “case” or a “file.” In addition we will make sure you receive representation from the lawyer who you choose to hire, and not someone assigned to your case.
- **Responsive & Accessible:** We pride ourselves on being responsive and accessible. Your calls and emails will be promptly returned, and your questions will be thoroughly and clearly answered.
- **Knowledge & Insight:** We have the cutting-edge knowledge and insight it takes to resolve your important issues in the most effective and efficient manner possible. Angelo Sarno and John J. Trombadore are both Certified Matrimonial Attorneys by the Supreme Court of New Jersey. We are ready and willing to take on novel and complex legal issues, and have argued them before federal and state courts, including the Supreme Court of New Jersey.
- **Focusing on Your Success:** You can depend on us to work extremely hard to provide you with the most favorable outcome and resolve your issues as swiftly and smoothly as possible. We will zealously strive to help you take advantage of mediation and dispute resolution alternatives. However, when necessary and in your best interests, we will aggressively prepare for trial and fearlessly fight for your rights in court.

“Our lawyers understand that the process of divorce can be the most difficult time in our clients’ lives. That’s why we work closely with them, and treat their case as if it were our most important priority — because it is!”

Contact us today to get the experience, attention and care you deserve. Your case is important to us!



Roseland

425 Eagle Rock Ave., Ste 101
Roseland, NJ 07068
Tel.: (973) 274-5200
Fax: (973) 274-5202

Somerville

1 Eastern Ave., Ste 2W
Somerville, NJ 08876
Tel.: (908) 927-0200
Fax: (908) 927-0207

Hackensack

Court Plaza North, 25 Main St. 6th Fl.
Hackensack, NJ 07601
Tel.: (201) 488-3366
Fax: (201) 488-1366

www.matrimoniallawnj.com
dramos@matrimoniallawnj.com

MM: I know lots of dads who love their kids and don't want to pay support... my ex included. Every case is different.

DS: The system goes against the father. It's always about money.

KJ: DS you are really opening up my emotions on this one. How dare you say the system goes against the father- maybe in Nebraska but that is certainly not the case everywhere. But you did get something right...it's always about the money...and I know a lot of fathers that want more custody just because they won't pay as much child support

DS: KJ the system is against men everywhere and yes I dare say it the system always goes against the father and I know a lot of mothers who only want custody for more money read the posts here there all against fathers the wife gets this she gets that and fathers get screwed it cost me 1200\$ just to get the standard Christmas time because she refused before we were even divorced 3 weeks to see my child because she didn't think I had a need and a court order is what it took to make it happen. Don't you dare say fathers have just as much right to there children as the mother and the courts side with the mother.

CH: No, not all moms are saints. I question my goodness as a mother every day. I'm human. I have seen plenty of great dads do the job because the mother has poor parenting skills.

MM: My ex wanted me to say we have shared custody, which we don't, so he wouldn't have to pay as much child support.

YSTW: I very much doubt he will get custody of the children, the courts usually award to the Mother unless abuse is involved, which it doesn't sound like. Your husband doesn't have to be very involved and Your attorney can do specific searches to find hidden money. Your husband will have to provide certain things if he is court ordered. You don't have to be involved in his business to get half (if community property is the law in your state). Your job has been raising the children and running your home so he could run a business. I know this sounds like a lot but please don't just give in which is what I did 20 years ago and had to go back to court to get more spousal support. You are entitled to spousal and child support. Stay strong, you will get through this and will move forward from a place of power. Lots of luck and many blessings.

DS: All your lawyer wants is your money.

CH: If it becomes something you can't afford then you can have your bills become his bills. Stand your ground. You may need to go into discovery. My ex told the judge he makes the same amount of money as I do after child support, I work 2 jobs and pay considerably less rent than his property taxes a year, and he drives a Bentley. So anything that he doesn't have to pay because the business pays those expenses are income.

1,962 people saw this post  4  18  1

Divorce Magazine:



 9  10  2

Divorce Magazine: Have you downloaded the latest issue of Divorce Magazine yet? It's free. www.divorcemag.com/findprofessionals.php

SB: Why don't they put one out on how to commit, devote and learn to work on a relationship

DM: Actually, we just posted an article entitled "Divorce Prevention: Valentine's Day Tips from DivorceMagazine.com" 



4,312 people saw this post  4  18  1