

# WOMEN'S DIVORCE GUIDE



 Johnson & Smith, LLP

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# A Peaceful Divorce by Design



Neil James Dan Johnson Martha Smith Chris English

Your divorce settlement is important. And how you get there matters a lot.

## Our Collaborative Divorce service makes a difference

When Dan Johnson began practicing family law in the early 1990s, he knew there had to be a better way to help clients than taking their cases to court. "Divorce litigation cost a lot of money and dragged cases on for months," he recalls. But he soon learned about Collaborative Divorce — an alternative method of dispute resolution outside the adversarial system. Johnson and his partner, Martha Smith are both seasoned collaborative attorneys who are trained to resolve divorce cases using this process. With their Collaborative Divorce service, you can get through your divorce with less stress, expense, and conflict.

## A high rate of out-of-court settlement

Today, the law firm of Johnson & Smith has a stellar reputation in Los Angeles County for resolving the vast majority of its cases through collaborative family law. "In Collaborative Divorce, you and your spouse retain your own separate attorneys who will work together with settlement as the only goal," Smith explains. "The best part is: both attorneys sign an agreement stating that they will resign should the process break down and you want to litigate. So everyone is committed to finding a non-adversarial solution."

## Serving you with top-rated legal skills

Johnson and Smith are highly respected by not only clients but also other divorce lawyers and judges. Johnson is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and has an AV

rating in *Maximale-Hubbell*. Smith is a past-president of the California Bar Association, is listed in *Best Lawyers in America*, and has been profiled in *Newsweek* and *The Los Angeles Times*. Both have represented numerous celebrities in their divorces.

## Financial and child-custody expertise

"I also have training in asset valuation," Johnson adds, "which is extremely valuable if your divorce involves significant property issues. And if your case warrants it, we will bring in a financial advisor. Furthermore, Martha has experience as a child advocate, so we cover different aspects of your divorce."

"Come to us for peaceful divorce resolutions," says Smith. "We can help you design a divorce settlement agreement that is best for the future of you and your family."

**Contact us today to book a free initial consultation and start designing your peaceful divorce.**

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For many women, divorce is a difficult and confusing experience that can profoundly change and negatively impact many aspects of life.

In this **Women's Divorce Guide**, you'll find hand-selected articles, book excerpts, advice, insights and more that focus exclusively on women's divorce issues. It's a treasure trove of compassionate and credible information, designed to inform you as you make it successfully through your divorce — and beyond.



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BEFORE YOU  
GIVE UP:

# Reconciliation Strategies That Work

By Erica Manfred

**If you're still making some effort — no matter how last ditch — to save your marriage, you need to have some solid information about marriage counseling: what works, what doesn't, and what to try before you give up.**

**I**f you've already been to marriage counseling that didn't work, you're not alone. Before ending a marriage there's a social expectation that you should try counseling, if only to fend off the disapproval when your friends and family ask if you tried it before splitting up. Unless alcohol or abuse is involved, they will ask, guaranteed. If the answer is no, you'll get more than a few raised eyebrows, the implication being that you're a quitter. Unfortunately, few couples get to

**Few couples get to counseling in time to actually save their marriages. Often it's more like the last rites for the marriage. Even fewer people find the right kind of marriage counseling — the kind that actually saves marriages.**