

DANIEL H. GREEN, ESQ.

CRITICAL DIVORCE MISTAKES

How To Avoid The Mistakes That
Can Sabotage Your Divorce



CRITICAL DIVORCE MISTAKES

After finalizing a recent divorce case, I asked my client how she felt now that it was over.

She turned to me, closed her eyes, and drew a deep breath through her nose, and as tears welled up behind her eyelids, she said,

“I feel like I can finally breathe again.”

I’ve never forgotten that.

And it’s not that she had necessarily wanted a divorce.

I don’t believe she was glad to be divorced.

Maybe she was, but that’s not what she meant.

She was expressing **relief**.

The truth is, she is not the only client who has used similar language to describe how they felt when it was over.

Many people feel like they are holding their breath during the divorce process.

This is because it can be **overwhelming and scary** at the same time. It feels like their lives are on hold, and they just want to make it through to the other side.

At a time when you are already experiencing a roller coaster of emotions pertaining to the breakdown of your relationship, you are forced into a legal process that, for most people, is filled with trepidation and uncertainty about **the things that matter most in life**.

Daniel H. Green, Esq.

1540 Rt 138 Suite 203, Wall, NJ 07719

Telephone: 732-556-0240

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You are worried about how it will turn out financially, and whether you will be able to make it on your own.

You're concerned about how it will impact the children and your family life.

It's no wonder that divorce is considered one of the most stressful events in life, second only to the death of a loved one. It's also not surprising that divorce sometimes ends in a contentious court battle.

Family, friends, and coworkers typically have no shortage of advice about what we should do and what we can expect.

It could all be so overwhelming that many people tend to delay getting legal advice, either because they figure they can't afford an attorney, or because they're experiencing some form of denial.

The truth is, without legal guidance from a practicing divorce and family attorney, too many people make critical and costly mistakes that can sabotage the outcome of their divorce and their futures.



After someone has waited too long to consult with an attorney, and costly damage has already been done, they are usually feeling desperate and will retain the first attorney they speak to. That can also be a big mistake.

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With proper legal guidance , the **majority of cases can be settled outside of court**, and without developing into an acrimonious dispute.

The most important thing for you to understand is that **you do have more options that you think**.

Some of these options may only be available if you act now before things get out of hand, and take the necessary steps to protect your interests and those of your family.

You may be experiencing an avalanche of conflicting emotions, and you may feel like the future is out of your hands.

You may have seen friends or family go through a messy and antagonistic divorce process, and you expect that your divorce is destined to a similar outcome.

It doesn't have to be that way.

The reason I wrote this short ebook was to equip you to avoid the mistakes that can sabotage your divorce, so that your option remain open. The future doesn't have to be out of your hands.

Sincerely,

Daniel H. Green, Esq.

CRITICAL DIVORCE MISTAKES

COMMON DIVORCE MISTAKES

Divorce Mistake #1: Hesitating To Seek Legal Advice

The longer you wait to speak to a family law attorney, the more likely you are to make costly mistakes that could foster additional conflict jeopardizing your interests and complicating the divorce process. For those who have waited too long and now feel pressure to act, they are more likely to hire the first attorney they find. It isn't uncommon for people to think they know what type of family attorney they need. They may think they want an attorney best known for being aggressive or one that focuses on "men's rights" for example without realizing there may be considerations they are not aware of.

Divorce Mistake #2: Choosing The Wrong Lawyer

There are good attorneys and there are bad. It is not different than other professions. The primary areas of concern when choosing attorney are legal competence, genuine concern, and ethics. When you consider what is at stake, and that your future is very much in their hands, it becomes clear why it's so important to choose an attorney carefully. It's also important to speak with several attorneys before making your decision.

Divorce Mistake #3: Making Emotional Decisions

Divorce is one of the few areas of law where a legal process, that was designed to determine who's right and who's wrong, is part of something as emotional as the ending of a relationship, and the restructuring of the family. It is a terribly painful process and there is often anger and bitterness, and when you combine that with litigation, things can quickly spiral out of control, and decisions are often made based on emotion.

It's not easy to think clearly when you're experiencing such an overwhelming flood of emotions. When this happens divorce can easily become more about hurting the other party than about ending a marriage, and ensuring that everyone's needs are met. This rarely turns out well for either party. It drags out the divorce, destroys relationships, can damage children emotionally, and increases legal costs. There is never a winner and a loser in divorce.

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Divorce Mistake #4: Thinking Short Term

Unfortunately, many of the mistakes people make during divorce are the result of other mistakes, and they tend to compound making a mess of the situation. Making emotional decisions often results in thinking short term, and consequently people fail to consider the long-term impact of the decisions they are making, both financially, and on the children and extended family.

YOU HAVE OPTIONS BEYOND TRADITIONAL DIVORCE

Divorce will never be easy but it doesn't have to be adversarial. The process itself doesn't have to destroy family relationships, and result in additional bitterness and emotional scars. It doesn't have to take years of your life or cost tens of thousands of dollars. The truth is most couples simply want to end their marriages. They don't want to cause unnecessary emotional damage to the children or other extended family and friends. If this reflects your desires and values then you may have other options for getting a divorce while saving money, protecting your children, and your privacy as well as your dignity. These options include collaborative law and divorce mediation.



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Collaborative Divorce

Collaborative divorce is a relatively new strategy for dispute resolution that enables couples to divorce on their terms. It allows them to take control of the process. It eliminates the uncertainty of the court deciding matters pertaining to the future of their family. In the collaborative divorce process, the couple, with the help of their respective attorneys and a team of collaborative professionals, works together to create mutually acceptable solutions that allow all parties to move forward without the destructive impact of traditional divorce. The collaborative team includes: attorneys, financial professionals, Child specialist and divorce coaches.

Collaborative divorce saves time, money and reduces conflict which invariably reduces the negative impact on children and family.

The Collaborative process has a number of benefits which make it a better way to divorce for most couples.

Protects Children

In collaborative divorce the children are made a priority and the collaborative team works together to help support the parents in finding creative solutions that are their best interest.

Saves Time and Money

In a traditional divorce the timetable is controlled by the court. In the collaborative process you are in control and can schedule meetings according to your schedule. This allows for much faster resolution and savings in legal fees. While a traditional divorce can take more than a year, a collaborative divorce is typically resolved within six months.

Protects Privacy

All meetings are confidential and therefore personal and sensitive information does not become part of the public record.

After an agreement is reached on all issues, the parties will go to court for approval of the divorce agreement. Only the final agreement becomes part of the public court record.

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Divorce Mediation

Divorce mediation is a process where a neutral party known as a mediator meets with both spouses in order to help them identify the issues that need to be resolved, share the information necessary to find solutions, and communicate effectively so they can reach a divorce agreement.

During a series of meetings, the divorce mediator will actively engage with both spouses to address all the necessary issues. The mediator will help the spouses reach decisions, and agreements necessary for an amicable end to their marriage.

After an agreement is reached, a document is prepared which is called a Memorandum of Understanding. This is drafted by the mediator, and will contain all the agreements that were made during the mediation sessions.

This document can then be taken to their respective attorneys for review and help in finalizing the divorce.

The Best Way To Protect Your Interests

Seeking the help of a trusted New Jersey family lawyer early is one of the best ways to protect your interests, assets, and preserve your own long-term financial and emotional health as well as that of your children.

The decision to divorce is generally reached only after a long and difficult process and only as the last option available. I know that even calling for an appointment with a lawyer can be stressful. Traditional divorce might not always be the only option. One of the alternatives discussed above may be an option for you, even if you don't think your spouse would be agreeable. But you need to talk about your situation with a professional to know what might be best for you.

Whether you are sure you want to end your marriage, or are still considering your options, it helps to learn the basics of divorce law, the process and simply talk about it with someone who can answer your questions.

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An experienced attorney may even be able to give you some peace of mind by putting to rest some of the concerns you may have that are simply unfounded.

You Can't Afford To Take Chances When Your Family & Future Is On The Line

The fact is no two situations are the same. Everyone's circumstances are different, but one thing remains true. You can't take risks when your children, your finances and your future is at stake. You need professional advice from an experienced attorney who understands what you are facing and cares enough to guide you through the process and do what is necessary to protect your interests.

*What you do now can have a big impact on how it
all turns out.*

That's why it is so important to get expert legal advice from an experienced divorce attorney as soon as possible. By the way, there is life after divorce. It will get better.

**Please contact me at 732-556-0240 if you would like to
schedule a confidential consultation.**

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