

Special Report

The 5 BIGGEST Mistakes People Make in Divorce

Attention: Utah Couples Considering Divorce

The information contained in this Special Report may be the most important thing you ever read about divorcing. What you are about to discover is an option you have that many Divorce Attorneys hope you never find out!

The information contained in this special report is a result of over 8 years of experience as a divorce mediator and thousands of mediations. I have interviewed hundreds of couples in an effort to learn more about how divorcing people think, how they feel and why they do what they do while going through a divorce. I have studied their behaviors, heard their frustrations and witnessed many couples make the biggest mistakes of their lives.

The information contained in this report is not rocket science. It is true! You may read this and dismiss these findings for one reason or another. Perhaps you think you are the exception and are above making any of these mistakes. Maybe you have already talked to an attorney and have been “led to believe” that *you will win* in a courtroom.

For what ever reason you don't think that any of this information applies to you, I ask only one thing; Keep this report and read it again after your divorce is finalized, if you end up going to go to court and battling it out, and if you can honestly say that you did not make ANY of these mistakes, I will personally take you to lunch! I want to know how you did it!

Mistake #1 – Following the well-intended advice of family and friends.

Everyone has an opinion of how your divorce will end up and what ***you should “get”***. Usually their opinions are based solely on having watched several episodes of “Divorce Court” or better yet, from a friend of a friend of a friend who had a cousin who was divorced and got this or that type of settlement.

The FACT is, NO ONE knows your whole story and YOUR situation is not like anyone else. While some of this advice might be true you need to remember that your divorce is like a fingerprint, there is not another one exactly like yours.

No one else has your kids, no one else has your stuff and if you go to court you will have a completely different set of attorneys and judges. Don't get false expectations from well-intended but misinformed and one-sided sources!

Mistake # 2 - Thinking you will get to tell your side of the story to a Judge and that the Judge will listen.

Here is what really happens in the courtroom - Your case will be given about 20 minutes at each hearing. You will just sit there and listen to your attorney talk! **RARELY** will a Judge address either you or your spouse.

If you don't believe it, do yourself a favor and go to the Scott Matheson Court House in Salt Lake (or the court house nearest where you live) and sit in on divorce hearings. You will see the reality of the courtroom.

You will begin to understand that the Judge doesn't care how bad your spouse is, or what you did or didn't do. You don't get to tell the Judge your story! You have to trust that your attorney will be more persuasive than your spouse's attorney and hope he is better prepared.

38% of litigated divorces end up back in court and can cost over \$15,000 each even after the divorce is over!

Mistake #3 - Assume the Judge can make better decisions than you can about your family.

Why would two reasonable, rational, decent people prefer to let a judge make decisions on their behalf and determine how their children will be handled rather than work it out with each other?

WE DON'T KNOW WHY!!!!

No one knows better than you and your spouse what is in the best interest of your children. Don't be so stubborn that you need to let a Judge decide for you and your family how custody and visitation should be. Take the time necessary to put a parenting plan together. The decisions a judge imposes on you will never be better than the decisions the two of you can make when it comes to your children.

Mistake #4 - Falling into the trap set by many Divorce Attorneys that begins with the very popular phrase "Free Consultation".

Why in the world would anyone want to make this already difficult process of divorce, MORE DIFFICULT? Attorneys are trained to represent and **DEFEND** one party to the very end. **Sounds like war doesn't it?**

We have interviewed hundreds of people who were lured into a "free consultation" by an attorney and ended up hiring them for as much as \$5000 just to get started because they were convinced that their case was more complicated on account of the children and perhaps some debt and retirement accounts. Sadly, often times couples either have a good idea of how they want everything divided or even better have agreed on most issues. Once the adversarial process begins, it is difficult to get out.



Please understand one important message:

You Don't Have to Get An Attorney To Get Divorced In Utah!

The first question's people contemplate when they decide to get a divorce is:

Should I hire an attorney? Who should I hire?

After you have decided who to go visit one of the following will likely occur -

- ~ He'll try to convince you that you have a more complicated situation than you think.
- ~ He will lead you to believe that what you have already agreed to with your spouse is foolish and without his "divine intervention" you will absolutely end-up getting cheated by your spouse!
- ~ He'll convince you that by writing him a check for no less than \$1,500 you won't be making any more stupid mistakes.
- ~ He will actually try to "win you over" by lending a truly sympathetic ear... saying he wished that all cases could be uncontested and that couples could just settle without having to beat-up on each other. This is what I call "the altruistic peace-loving approach"... and it's nothing but a well-disguised sales pitch!

Give Me A Break!

Think about the logic of this... it's not realistic! It is not in any attorney's best interest to have uncontested divorces. He would be out of business! It is like a car mechanic telling you he wished there was a maintenance free engine!

DON'T BE DECEIVED!

The FACT IS....they want you to fight. They need you to fight. And they will do their absolute best to make sure you DO FIGHT! Just be careful not to fall prey to their clever tactics. Others have done so... and so can you.

Mistake #5: Thinking that there is such a thing as a "CHEAP" way to Divorce.

Couples call everyday to find out about our divorce services. One of the first questions they ask is "**How much does it cost?**" I respect people for asking this question and I understand no one wants to spend money on a divorce. It's worse then spending money on a burial plot. It's worse than paying taxes. It is not fun money to spend!

...BUT GET REAL!!!!

This is the most important decision you will make. I challenge you to find another decision in your life that will have more impact on you financially or emotionally (especially if you have children).

If you just learned that you needed a heart transplant would you call around to all of the doctors and find out which one was the cheapest? Would you go to a foreign country to have the operation performed because it would be cheaper? Do you think the decision to get divorced is any less important?

Perhaps your divorce is so simple that all you really need is the legal documents drawn up. You agree on everything.

BUT....

WHEN CHILDREN ARE INVOLVED, THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A CHEAP DIVORCE.

Get this idea out of your head right now. You will not get divorced for \$150.00, \$250.00 or \$350.00 dollars. This I will promise you.

Now...you may not spend more than that up front to get your divorce documents prepared **BUT**...eventually you will spend a lot more money to fix all of the screw-ups and mistakes made that you didn't know you were making. We work with couples all the time that have experienced this exact thing.

FACT... over 80% of all cases filed using one of the "cheap" methods will end up back in court when there are kids involved.

There are so many things to consider when going through the divorce process when there are children involved. Things like custody, visitation, tax implications and child support.

TAKE THIS NEXT PIECE OF ADVICE AND DEPOSIT IT IN THE BANK, BECAUSE IT IS MONEY IN YOUR POCKET...

DO IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME!

TAKE TIME TO CUSTOMIZE YOUR DIVORCE AGREEMENT TO FIT YOUR NEEDS AND THE NEEDS OF YOUR CHILDREN TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS OR ANY CHANCE OF SECOND GUESSING YOUR AGREEMENT.

If you spend a little more time and money now, you will save thousands of dollars and months of time later and best of all...you can get on with your life!

~ ~ ~

So now that you know what mistakes to AVOID,
what can YOU do to make sure that your divorce goes as
smoothly as possible?

KEEP YOUR DIVORCE OUT OF COURT !

This one piece of advice will not cost you a thing. It is free and it is the best advise you will ever get. If you do this one thing you will:

- Save more money and more time than you can imagine.
- You will be able to get on with your life more quickly, and;
- You will be able to be a better parent to your children who are the main victims in this divorce.

**HOW DO YOU KEEP A HIGH
CONFLICT DIVORCE OUT OF
COURT?**

It's called...Mediation!

This is what we specialize in. This is what I have been doing for the last 12 years and I have created a process where any couple, no matter how difficult or easy they think their divorce is, can get divorced and never see the inside of a courtroom.

We have handled thousands of mediations. We have worked on divorces for dentists, doctors, airline pilots, and high profile TV personalities. We have seen the most complicated, messy and difficult cases involving custody, excessive debts and assets and have done this all and no one ever had to see a judge or even set foot in a courtroom. We have a 96% success rate!

Why is **COMMON GROUND DIVORCE SPECIALISTS** the most successful mediation firm in Utah?

- We have the highest trained and most experienced mediators available.
- We use retired judges as mediators.
- We charge on a flat fee basis so you don't worry about how much it is going to cost or worry about an endless stream of bills coming in after the divorce.
- We use male/female teams which have proven to not only speed up the process but the overall approval rate of the process goes up by 80%.