

Guide to when your case will be over:

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Mediation

- · Agree upon a mediator
- A mediator is a neutral 3rd party who facilitates settlement discussions
- Sign a cut off agreement confirming the end date of your marriage
- Can have multiple sessions
- Can be with or without counsel present
- Mediator prepares Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that confirms settled terms reached in mediation
- · Not binding unless MOU is signed
- Confidential process
- Very effective and cost efficient way to resolve issues
- MOU becomes the framework of the Marital Settlement Agreement (MSA)
- Mediation concluded once MOU completed
- Confer with lawver to convert MOU to MSA
- MSA signed, which addresses all open issues
- We will submit paperwork by mail to obtain a Final Judgment of Divorce from the court without a court appearance

Litigation

- File Complaint, Answer & Counterclaim
- File Case Information Statement
- Attend custody mediation in court
- Exchange discovery
- Have Case Management Conference in court
- Attend Early Settlement Panel & present case to volunteer experienced lawyers who recommend terms of settlement
- Attend mandatory economic mediation
- Multiple settlement conferences in court until settle, as you wait for trial dates
- At all times during litigation, can also mediate or try and settle with other side
- Judge decides after prolonged trial. No set date for when a judge must decide
- · Judge enters Final Judgment of Divorce

Every divorce and family law matter is different. The team at Lawrence Law is prepared to work with clients in strategizing and negotiating a reasonable settlement. We handle contested and uncontested divorces and navigate custody, parenting time, alimony and child support issues, as well as help you determine what route is most appropriate - alternative dispute resolution, mediation, arbitration, or trial.

For more information on the divorce/break up process, visit www.lawlawfirm.com.

Collaborative

- · Sign a contract that must settle case
- · Have series of meetings to discuss all issues & settle case
- · If do not settle, all team members must get out of
- · If settle, MSA and divorce processed by mail & court will mail back a Final Judgment of Divorce

Arbitration

- Sign an arbitration agreement outlining terms & scope of arbitration
- Select an arbitrator who serves as a private judge
- Arbitration is paid by the parties and it occurs outside of court and at the lawver's office

Glossarv

Collaborative Divorce- a non-adversarial process where both spouses and their respective attorneys work together to reach a mutually agreed-upon divorce settlement without going to court.

Divorce Litigation- legal process in which a divorce case is taken to court and decided by a judge.

Divorce Mediation- a process in which a neutral third party, known as a mediator, helps divorcing couples reach

Final Judgment of Divorce (FJOD)- official court order that legally terminates a marriage.

Marital Settlement Agreement (MSA) - legally binding document that outlines the terms and conditions agreed upon by both spouses in a divorce or legal separation.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - formal, non-binding document that outlines the intentions, agreements, and understanding between two or more parties in a particular arrangement or collaboration.

It is always better to settle your case outside of court since you can control and dictate the terms of your agreement. You both agree to work together to divide your assets and debts and to create a parenting plan that puts your children's needs first. The process is complex, and there are moments of tension and disagreement, but you both remain committed to finding a peaceful resolution. We will be with you every step of the way.

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