

The Amicable Divorce Network Process

Information Booklet

Thank you for taking the time to visit my website! I am excited to introduce you to a new, modern, and cost-effective way to resolve your divorce with minimal conflict – the Amicable Divorce Process. This streamlined out-of-court approach allows couples to reach a peaceful resolution with the guidance of experienced professionals, saving time, money, and most importantly, your sanity, while still delivering great results.

With over 30 years of experience in family law and as a Board-Certified Family Law Specialist, I bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to every case I handle. My training amicable divorce network, as well as my extensive training as collaborative lawyer and mediator, uniquely position me to help guide you through this process in a way that prioritizes low conflict and tailored solutions for your family's needs.

To help you understand how this process can work for you, I've attached a digital brochure, which is a **customized team of professionals** to meet your specific needs and budget. It includes:

- **Out-of-court resolution**, avoiding stressful courtroom appearances
- Focus on **low conflict**, ensuring a smoother process for you and your family
- Flexibility to work with professionals who share the same spirit of cooperation
- An opportunity to retain control of the process and outcome

If you live in Texas or plan to file your divorce here, I invite you to schedule a **free 20-minute consultation** with me. During this session, we'll discuss how the Amicable Divorce Process can specifically benefit your situation and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you again for your interest, and I look forward to working with you on a path to a more peaceful resolution.

Warm regards,

Holly Schymik



AMICABLE DIVORCE NETWORK

Client Information Booklet

Information to decide if an Amicable Divorce is right for you





Founded in 2019, the Amicable Divorce Network serves to promote amicable divorce practices and connect parties with experienced and vetted professionals who will not create unwanted conflict in their case. Members of our organization believe there is a better way to divorce and are committed to assisting parties with low conflict ways to resolve their issues.

Many are suspicious about a concept whereby attorneys charge less for amicable cases because that seems so unusual that someone would choose to earn less money. But the simple fact is that many professionals were attracted to family law because they wanted to help people and they believe the current system is flawed and bad for the parties and their children. The current traditional divorce process forces parties to take opposite positions and say bad things about the other to get their desired result.

With an Amicable Divorce, we streamline the entire process with a focus on the future, not the past. Our goal is to help individuals and families obtain a divorce in the healthiest most efficient way possible. We hope you will explore the possibility of amicable divorce-divorce for reasonable people.

WHAT TYPE OF DIVORCE IS BEST FOR YOU?



Often people facing divorce do not understand that the way they approach their divorce is their choice. There is not just one way to divorce. People have an impression that the only way to obtain a divorce is to lawyer up and duke it out in court, and in some circumstances, the involvement of the court is absolutely necessary. However, in a majority of circumstances, parties engage in the traditional divorce approach with attorneys, take months doing extensive discovery, are pitted against one another to fight for what they want, spend hard earned money on exhaustive attorney fees and end up settling their case anyway. With the Amicable Divorce Process, parties take control of their case themselves. The [Amicable Divorce Network](#) provides a professionally guided out of court process which is low conflict, efficient, and focuses on resolution-not court.

Parties facing divorce should first decide how they are choosing to approach their divorce and then they should find an attorney to aligns with their perspective. Clients should never be afraid to question any attorney they are looking at hiring about the attorney's attitude about the divorce process and whether that attorney will honor the client's choices and goals.

Generally speaking, a divorce falls into one of the following three categories:

Uncontested Divorce: Often called a "kitchen table agreement", the parties have all of their issues worked out. They only need a lawyer to assist with the preparation and filing of the paperwork. The Amicable Divorce Network (ADN) can be used to find low conflict attorneys who will assist with this process. It is always a good idea, even if a divorce is uncontested, that both parties have access to legal advice and have the document reviewed and prepared by an attorney. Utilizing the ADN will assure parties get advice from a professional who will honor the parties' wishes to keep the matter uncontested while giving each party the advice and guidance they need to have such an important matter handled properly. Using online forms and trying to navigate the system without an attorney is never a good idea.

Amicable Divorce: The Amicable Divorce Network process is centered around the attitude of the parties and their desire to resolve their family law matter efficiently and with low conflict. Many parties desire an uncontested divorce, but lack the knowledge or ability to navigate division of accounts, child support calculations, tax consequences and parenting plans. For a divorce to utilize the Amicable Divorce Process, the parties must both agree to utilize this process and professionals in the Amicable Divorce Network for their divorce. Only members of the Amicable Divorce Network are trained on the Amicable Divorce Process, and members are also vetted for being resolution focused, experienced, and engaging in fair billing practices. The parties agree to use members of the Amicable Divorce Network who share their mindset and will work with the parties to keep the matter on track to resolution.



The parties may or may not have some of their issues worked out at the outset of the case, but if there are disagreements, they agree to use alternate dispute resolution means (such as mediation) to resolve differences instead of the court system. The discovery process is streamlined to focus on each party obtaining the information they need to make informed decisions about their case. Settlements are worked out before anything is filed with the court and all documents are filed with the court at the same time so the court is aware that the case is fully settled. The process can also be used for other family law cases such as child support modification or visitation modifications.

The parties have other network professionals available to them to assist with the divorce including mental health professionals, financial professionals, mortgage and real estate professionals, wellness experts, coaches and more so that they can have a fully informed divorce from start to finish while still remaining low conflict. As attorneys can ethically only serve the interests of one client, the Amicable Divorce Network serves to connect both parties with low conflict attorneys, and a team of professionals, to work together to obtain a divorce.

Traditional/ Contested Divorce: Whereas an Amicable Divorce ends with filing a divorce with the court, a traditional/contested divorce begins with the filing of the divorce paperwork and the other party being served (depending on your jurisdictional rules), sometimes by law enforcement. The case is placed on a timeline dictated by their particular jurisdiction and they may or may not use alternate dispute methods to resolve disputes. The selection of attorneys is entirely up to the parties and the attorneys may be resolution or litigation oriented. Often these types of cases are more expensive with the average cost current over \$20,000.00 per party in the United States, take much longer, and have higher conflict. Parties are forced to take opposing sides, hire competing experts, and engage in what is often an invasive and unnecessary discovery process. In some situations, it is appropriate to use the traditional court process. Amicable Divorce Network attorneys are experienced in all forms of family law cases and can help you weigh your options and arrive at a decision on whether Uncontested, Amicable or Traditional divorce is best for your situation,

MOVING FORWARD

Once the decision is made on what kind of divorce a person wants for their situation, the next step is to find an attorney that will assist you with meeting your goals and handling your case the way you have chosen. If an uncontested or Amicable Divorce is chosen, the Amicable Divorce Network (ADN) has identified all of the professionals who can assist you with the process from start to finish. ADN has vetted members of the network for being resolution focused, having experience in family law, and holding professional licenses in their respective profession. Please note, however, that the professionals in the network also handle traditional/contested divorce and can continue to assist you should you choose a contested divorce from the outset or the divorce you hoped would be amicable does not continue to be so.

WHO IS IN THE AMICABLE DIVORCE NETWORK?

The Amicable Divorce Network (ADN) is an organization of professionals who work in the divorce industry. Members are invited to join the network or apply for membership and go through a professional vetting process. Members must have the professional experience and standards set by the network and the hold the ideals that promote low conflict and cost efficient divorce solutions.

Professionals in the network include:

- Attorneys
 - Mental health professionals
 - Mediators
 - Arbitrators
 - Parent Coordinators
 - Mortgage brokers
 - Financial advisors
 - Real estate agents
 - Appraisers
 - Insurance agents
 - CPAs
 - Divorce and Life Coaches
 - Business Valuation Experts
 - Certified Divorce Financial Analysts
 - Health & Wellness Professionals
 - Forensic Accountants
- and More!

In addition to being a professional network, the Amicable Divorce Network is also the originator of the Amicable Divorce Process (explained in more detail below). Only network members receive training on this process.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Why do both parties have to use attorneys in the Amicable Divorce Network?

The Amicable Divorce Process is a different process than a traditional divorce. Only network members are trained on the process. Members also are vetted for amicable ideals and have a level of experience and professionalism required by the network.

“Amicable” sounds like I am agreeing to whatever my spouse wants.

In an amicable divorce case, parties still exchange any needed information and negotiate for their desired result. They are represented by their chosen legal professional who represents their best interest while focusing on low conflict and cost effective solutions to issues that arise. One main difference is that should a dispute arise, it is not resolved by the attorneys filing expensive and time consuming motions for the judge to resolve the issue sometimes months later. Resolution is found through attorneys working together, mediation, and if a third party needs to make a decision, then arbitration. Parties may also enlist the assistance of financial professionals, parent coordinators and others to help them navigate the process and reach decisions on their issues.



What if I hire an attorney in the Amicable Divorce Network but my spouse hires an attorney who isn't in ADN?

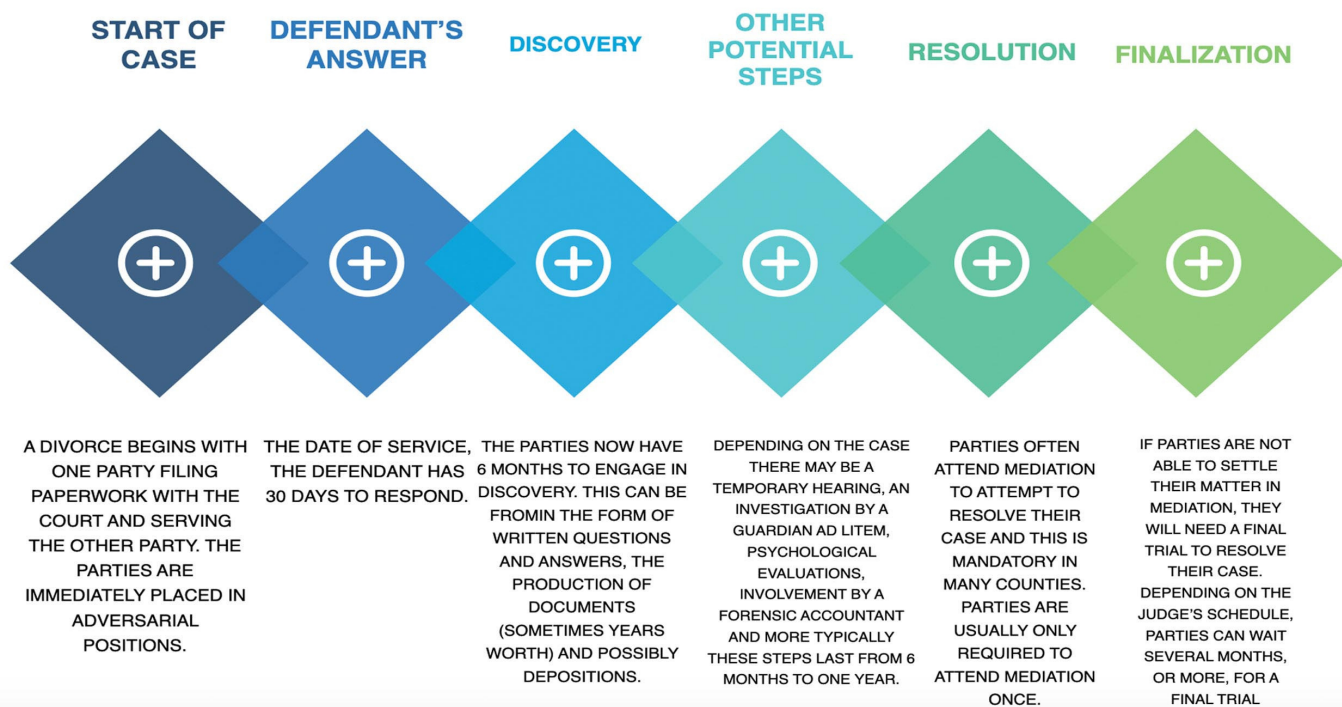
The Amicable Divorce Process cannot be used. Parties and their counsel will use the traditional court divorce process.

What if I try the Amicable Divorce Process, but something happens and I need to file with the court?

Should an emergency arise, please consult with your attorney. The Amicable Divorce Process is designed to handle many issues that occur in family law. But should you need access to the court system, nothing prevents you from ending your amicable divorce and initiating a court proceeding. In most circumstances, you can continue to use your Amicable Divorce Network professionals in a contested litigation, if you choose.

Traditional Divorce Timeline

Please note each jurisdiction may have different timelines. This is used as a general guide.



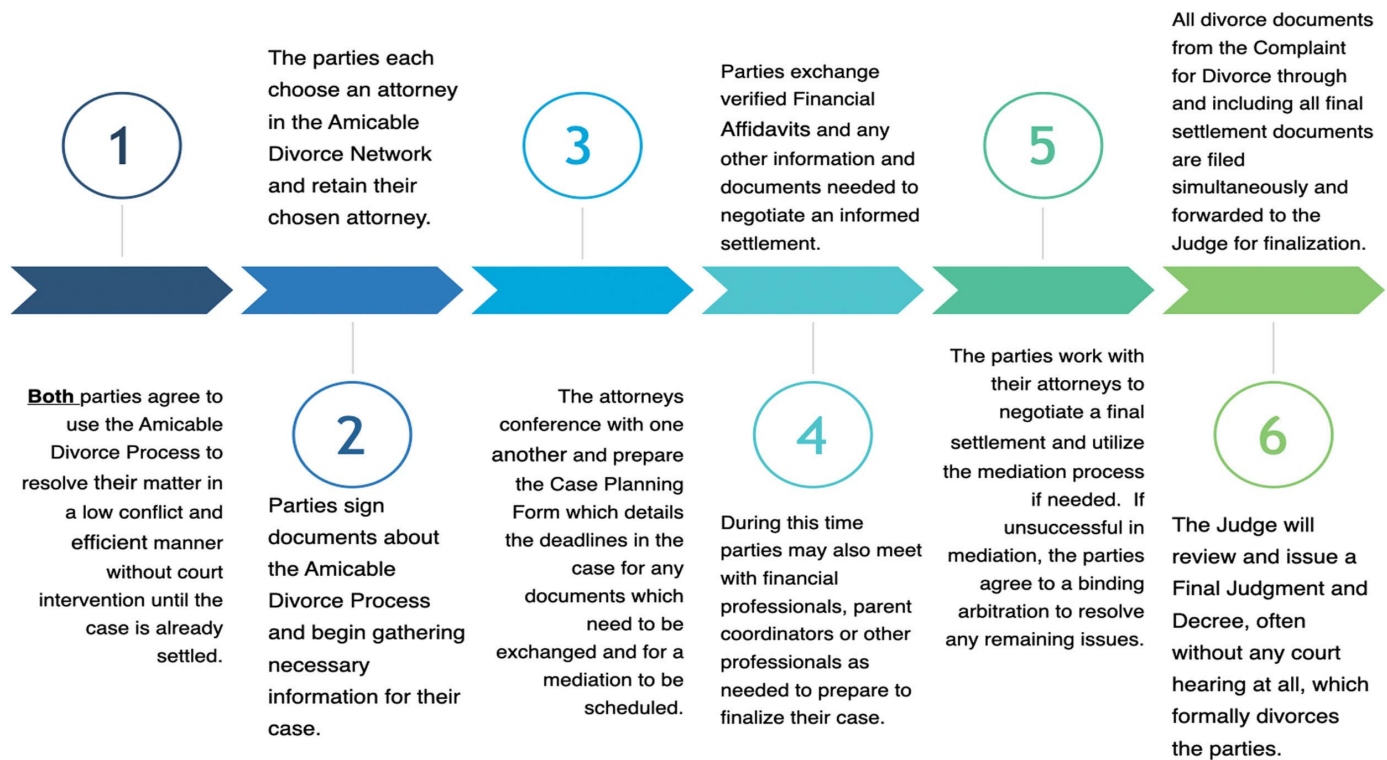
Each state, province, and sometimes even county or jurisdiction has a different process for divorce. It is important to consult with an attorney in your area to understand the nuances of the process in your jurisdiction. The diagram above is a general representation of a contested divorce process. The traditional divorce timeline set by the court system is for an indefinite time period. The more issues presented, the more drawn out the process can become. In Georgia, for example, from the initial date of service a party has 30 days to answer and the discovery process can go on as long as six months. With the pandemic, courts are seeing backlogs in cases who need hearings causing unusual delays in the system. The longer the process, the more conflict it generates between the parties as they are taking opposing positions throughout and not working together, and the higher the cost. The average cost of a divorce in the United States is \$15,000.00* per person. The average length of divorce in Georgia is six months (in non-Covid conditions).

The Amicable Divorce Network was founded to change the way people divorce. The process is designed to benefit the parties going through the divorce with a focus on creating a lower conflict process to benefit families, not lawyers. The Amicable Divorce Process is an individualized approach to divorce as one procedure does not work for all cases and families. You work with your chosen attorney to determine what information and documentation you need to negotiate settlement in your case and the timeline that works for you.

*Business Insider Magazine

Amicable Divorce Process

A guide for clients



Depending on the needs of the parties, the Amicable Divorce Process can be accelerated or slowed down as the process is entirely flexible. Parties should communicate to their selected attorneys their desired timeline for their case. Parties have a multitude of professionals available to them in the Amicable Divorce Network to assist them before, during, and after divorce.

Once a settlement is reached and filed with the court, the parties will need to wait for their case to be finalized by the Court. This is determined by your respective jurisdiction. During this time many jurisdictions require the parties to take a parenting class or similar if minor children are involved. Parties should also use this time to work with mortgage brokers, financial professionals and more to effectuate the terms of their divorce and plan to move forward.

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE AMICABLE DIVORCE PROCESS

- The entire case is settled before anything is filed with the court;
- The timeline of the case can be slowed down if a party needs more time for any reason or accelerated;
- Both parties are represented by counsel who represent their best interests and help them achieve their goals throughout the process;
- The many professionals in the Amicable Divorce Network are involved as necessary on a case by case basis to provide a high level of knowledge and assistance before, during and after your divorce;
- Simple or complex cases are ideal for the amicable Divorce Process. Complicated cases involving business, complex assets and issues can benefit from the streamlined process as the parties focus in getting information to reach a resolution, not paying multiple professionals to testify in a contested proceeding;
- Many attorneys charge less per hour, per retainer (or both) for Amicable cases;
- If either party decides at any point that the amicable divorce process is not for them, they can exit the process and file a traditional divorce. Their chosen attorney can continue to represent them in that process.

AMICABLE DIVORCE & THE PANDEMIC

The Amicable Divorce Process was designed prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, but is an ideal process for these circumstances. Parties can meet with their attorneys and other selected professionals on Zoom or similar platforms and mediations are now permitted to occur via video conference. When all documents are presented to the Court at the same time reflecting a full settlement, the in most jurisdictions the assigned Judge will not require the parties to appear in court for the case to be finalized.

With the invention and normalization of many new technology platforms to assist professionals and the public navigate the pandemic, we have seen professionals being able to service clients without geographic limitation. It is possible to complete an amicable divorce from start to finish from the comfort and safety of your home.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

You can find additional resources, public events and find member professionals at:



Follow us for events, information and more "Amicable Divorce Network" and "Divorce Amicably" on:



Watch informative videos about amicable divorce and related topics the Amicable Divorce Network channel on:



Join our community and connect with professionals and the public in our Facebook Group "Divorce Amicably Community"





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