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DIVORCE QUIZ: DO I NEED AN ATTORNEY FOR MY DIVORCE?

The short answer? No, you don't need a divorce attorney. But while it may be possible to handle your own divorce, in most cases, it's not a good idea. In many cases, there are factors that may make it more difficult to achieve the best possible outcome using the "do-it-yourself" method. Take this quiz to discover whether your situation may lend itself to the solo approach.

1. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN MARRIED?

- a. Less than 1 year
- b. 1-3 years
- c. More than 3 years

2. HOW MANY CHILDREN DO YOU HAVE?

- a. No children
- b. 1 child
- c. More than 1 child

3. LET'S TALK REAL ESTATE. WHAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR CURRENT SITUATION?

- a. We currently rent our residence
- b. We own our primary residence, and have no other real estate properties
- c. We own our primary residence, and have other real estate properties

4. WHAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION?

- a. My spouse and I both have independent, steady streams of income, and earn about the same amount
- b. My spouse and I both have independent, steady streams of income, but there is a difference in the amounts we earn
- c. Either I or my spouse are unemployed, and depend on the other for financial support

5. WHICH BEST DESCRIBES YOUR SITUATION?

- a. There is no disagreement on how my spouse and I will divide our property and debts, and the lines of communication are open between my spouse and me
- b. There is a little bit of disagreement on how my spouse and I will divide our property and debts, but my spouse and I are on cordial terms and can work it out
- c. It is and will be difficult to come to an agreement with my spouse on how to split our property and debts

6. HOW ARE YOU AT DETAILS, DEADLINES, AND PAPERWORK?

- a. I love lists! I am detail-oriented, organized, and work well with deadlines
- b. I have a little bit of trouble staying organized, but I can keep up with the important stuff for the most part
- c. I can keep up with the important stuff for the most part, but I am a very busy person and sometimes things can fall through the cracks

MOSTLY 'A's

You may be successful with a “do-it-yourself” divorce. Do-it-yourself divorces are best reserved for situations in which the marriage is of short duration; the parties have no children; the parties own no real estate and little other property; both spouses are capable of supporting themselves; and they agree on how to divide their property and debts; and the spouse handling the divorce is good with details, deadlines, and paperwork. Even if you fit into this category, however, you may want to hire an attorney to look over your final agreement.

MIX OF 'A's, 'B's, AND 'C's

You could be successful with a “do-it-yourself” divorce, but there are some factors in your situation that could keep you from achieving the best possible outcome. Do-it-yourself divorces are best reserved for situations in which the marriage is of short duration; the parties have no children; the parties own no real estate and little other property; both spouses are capable of supporting themselves; and they agree on how to divide their property and debts; and the spouse handling the divorce is good with details, deadlines, and paperwork. An experienced divorce attorney can help you handle custody and support arrangements, the division of property, and the complicated paperwork and deadlines associated with the divorce process. Consider speaking with a divorce attorney to speak about your current situation.

MOSTLY 'C's

You may want to consider an experienced divorce attorney to handle your case. Do-it-yourself divorces are best reserved for situations in which the marriage is of short duration; the parties have no children; the parties own no real estate and little other property; both spouses are capable of supporting themselves; and they agree on how to divide their property and debts; and the spouse handling the divorce is good with details, deadlines, and paperwork. An experienced divorce attorney can help you handle complex custody and support arrangements, the division of property, and the complicated paperwork and deadlines associated with the divorce process. Consider speaking with a divorce attorney to speak about your current situation.