

— TEXAS DIVORCE —

PROTECT YOURSELF

AND YOUR CHILDREN



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Introduction

There's no way to sugarcoat it: divorce can be one of life's most emotionally difficult experiences.

Whether the decision came after years of conflict, an unexpected betrayal, financial concerns, or simply the realization that the marriage is no longer working, you may feel confused, frightened, angry, and overwhelmed.

Those feelings are understandable - and you do not have to navigate what comes next alone.



As a divorce attorney, I work with people at one of the most important turning points in their lives. The decisions made during this period can affect their finances, families, and emotional well-being for years.

Helping clients move through the process with clarity and confidence is a responsibility I take seriously.

Divorce is painful, but it can also be a new beginning. With thoughtful guidance and a sound legal strategy, it offers an opportunity to protect what matters, learn from the past, and build a future that better reflects your needs and values.

Effective divorce representation requires more than legal knowledge. An attorney must anticipate challenges, adapt as circumstances change, and develop a strategy around the client's priorities. But strategy is only part of the equation.

Your attorney must also listen, understand your concerns, and recognize that success means something different in every case.

For one person, success may mean protecting important assets. For another, it may mean resolving the divorce efficiently and with as little conflict as possible. When children are involved, preserving their stability and well-being may be the highest priority.

The right approach depends on your goals, your family, and the unique facts of your situation.

My clients come from every walk of life, and their divorces run the gamut from simple and composed to complex, bitter battles involving millions in assets.

For instance, Joy and her husband Steve were together for 7 years, but Steve's deployment overseas working on civilian contracts for the Air Force opened an emotional void. Their cold war came to a head when Joy cheated on Steve with his best friend back home. Untangling the pain and regret for all involved will take skillful work and creative engagement.

Eleanor and Gill, meanwhile, accumulated a small fortune running an online SEO business but discovered after several years that they were better suited as business partners than romantic lovers. Although they both wanted to "do the right thing" by one another, their tangled financial interests made the separation challenging.

Could they continue to run the business in tandem? What would the separation mean for their employees and customers? How would the split affect the succession plan for the company? These questions needed solid answers.

Still, other divorces lead to fighting much closer to the heart. Angela and Caroline had been married for 4 years. They had two children, one from each biological mother, but their separation created bad blood – Angela accused her wife of being emotionally unstable and a risk to the children. A big child custody dispute and accusations of alienation followed.

No two divorces are alike. Some couples separate amicably but need help untangling shared finances, property, or business interests. Others face disputes involving substantial assets, infidelity, allegations of misconduct, child custody, support, or parental alienation.

Whatever the circumstances, each case requires careful analysis and a plan designed for the people involved.

This eBook provides a practical, high-level overview of the divorce process and answers many of the questions people commonly have when considering or beginning a divorce. It is not a complete guide and should not be considered legal advice. Because every case is different, personalized guidance from an experienced attorney is essential.



You may be going through one of the most painful periods of your life, but there is a path forward. My team and I are here to help you protect your rights, preserve your dignity, and make informed decisions about your family and future.

Call my office today to schedule your free case review and take the first step toward your next chapter.

Matt Zimmerman

Family Law Attorney

Blizzard and Zimmerman Attorneys

A Unique Approach

Divorce can feel overwhelming - but you don't have to face it alone.

At Blizzard and Zimmerman, we combine skilled legal representation with the compassion and personal attention you deserve.

Led by nationally recognized attorney Matt Zimmerman, our family law team helps clients navigate divorce with clarity, confidence, and a strategy tailored to their unique circumstances.



Matt's extensive courtroom experience, background in criminal law, and MBA give him a distinctive perspective when protecting your family, finances, and future.

Whether your divorce involves complex assets, child custody, support, or contested litigation, he is prepared to advocate for what matters most to you.

The decisions you make now can shape the next chapter of your life.

Call Blizzard and Zimmerman today to schedule your free case review and learn how we can help you move forward. **(325) 468-8781**

Back in Control

What are My Options for Separating or Getting a Divorce?

Uncontested Divorce



Jeremy and Melissa mutually decided to part ways after just two years of marriage. They don't have children together, and they don't have many assets or debts. They opted for an uncontested divorce. They'll work with their respective lawyers to draft documents to separate (for example: a property settlement agreement, ETC.). For them, the divorce process is straightforward, low stress, and fast.

Mediation



Caroline and Chuck had been married for 6 years. They have two children, including one child from Chuck's first marriage. They chose mediation, a form of what's known as "alternative dispute resolution." They each hire attorneys and work with a mediator, a neutral person who helps negotiate how to divvy up their assets and debts and figure out alimony and child support. The mediator does not decide what to do but rather helps negotiations work smoothly.

Collaborative Divorce



David and Diane opted for a different approach known as a collaborative divorce. Similar to mediation, this voluntary process aims to help spouses resolve their issues without resorting to litigation. It involves a team of support professionals, such as financial advisors and psychologists, to address their concerns collaboratively. However, if David and Diane are unable to reach an agreement, they will need to hire new attorneys to proceed with litigation. In other words, there is a significant cost if they choose to exit the collaborative process.

Litigation



Jenny and Alex were married for 12 years and have two children together. During their marriage, they accumulated substantial property, both inherited and earned. However, they frequently argued, things got heated, especially in the last two years. Unable to negotiate their differences, Jenny and Alex chose litigation. They went to court, each represented by different attorneys, to resolve disputes over child custody and the division of their marital estate.

Do I Have to Prove That My Spouse Did Something Wrong in Order to Get Divorced?

Texas is a "no-fault" divorce state, meaning that you can file for divorce without having to prove wrongdoing in order to get the separation.

For instance, Mia and Sam might say that irreconcilable differences drove them apart. Incompatibility or long-term separation can also be grounds for a no-fault divorce.

However, fault-based grounds such as adultery, cruelty, abandonment, felony conviction, and confinement in a mental hospital can also be cited. If you show that your spouse cheated on you, deserted you and your family, engaged in mental or physical cruelty or got convicted of a felony crime, you can gain certain advantages in the process.

For instance, you may get to bypass the normal waiting period to finalize the divorce or ask the court for remedies that wouldn't otherwise be available to you.

Derek and Carrie, for instance, split up while Derek was doing jail time for a burglary conviction. Carrie asked for a "fault-based" divorce, which she was able to get, because Derek was serving a two-year jail sentence. This approach allowed her rebuild her life faster.

Who Will Get to Make Decisions for My Children and Take Care of Them?

There are Different Types of Custody

Sole Legal Custody



One parent has the exclusive right to make major decisions about the child's life, such as education, healthcare, and religious upbringing. The other parent may still have visitation rights but does not have decision-making authority.

Joint Legal Custody



Both parents share the responsibility for making major decisions about their child's life. This arrangement requires effective communication and cooperation between the parents to ensure that they can jointly make decisions in the best interest of the child.

Physical Custody



This determines with which parent gets to take care of the children, when, and under what circumstances.

In general, the courts prefer to award both parents joint legal custody.

All things being equal, the court wants parents to participate in the spiritual and educational upbringing of their children.

However, consider the sad case of Zach and Gwyn.

After Gwyn developed schizophrenic mental illness, Zach asked the court for sole legal custody, arguing that his ex-wife lacked the mental capacity to make safe and well-thought-out decisions about the children's welfare.

Physical custody disputes are more common.

Sometimes, families split physical custody nearly 50/50. Other times, one parent gets sole custody or majority custody.

For instance, Katarina and George had two children together.

George was often away in Oklahoma on business, so they negotiated this situation: Katarina would be the custodial parent (the one who takes care of the children most of the time); while George would spend 5 days with them every month after returning from his out of state business trips.

How Does the Court Decide Physical Custody, and What Can I do to Strengthen My Case?

Whether you negotiate custody through mediation or fight it out at court, many issues must be considered, including:

- You and your ex's lifestyle, earning capacity, and job schedule.
- Your physical ability to take care of your children.
- The relationship you and your ex have with your children.
- Any history of abuse or neglect.
- The children's preferences depending on their age and maturity.
- Stability and continuity in the children's lives.
- The mental and physical health of both parents.

To strengthen your Custody Case:

- **Be Involved:** Show active involvement in your children's lives. Attend their school events, medical appointments, and extracurricular activities.
- **Document Everything:** Keep detailed records of your interactions with your ex-spouse and children. Document any issues, concerns, or significant events.
- **Demonstrate Stability:** Provide a stable and safe living environment for your children. Ensure their emotional and physical well-being.



- **Focus on your Children's Best Interests:** Highlight how your proposed custody arrangement serves the best interests of your children.
- **Work with an Experienced Family Law Attorney:** Seek legal counsel from an experienced family law attorney who has trial experience and can guide you through the process and advocate for your rights and your child's well-being.

By following these steps, you can present a strong case for physical custody that prioritizes the welfare and best interests of your children.

Conclusion

Navigating the complexities of divorce can be overwhelming, but you don't have to face it alone.

Here at the Blizzard and Zimmerman Attorneys, we are dedicated to providing compassionate and skilled legal support to help you protect yourself and your children during this challenging time.

If you would like to explore your options, call to schedule a free case review. My team and I want to ensure you have the guidance and support you need.

Remember, divorce is not the end. It is an opportunity for a new beginning - one that aligns with your values and life purpose. With the right support and guidance, you can emerge from this experience stronger and more empowered.

We hope this e-book has provided valuable insights and answered some of your questions. If you have any further inquiries or need personalized assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to us for a **Free Case Review (325) 468-8781**.



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