



# Navigating Divorce



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Do you feel  
disappointed,  
angry or  
uncertain of  
the future?

Divorce is an emotionally challenging journey, but with the right information and preparation, you can navigate it with confidence.

New to divorce? In this guide, we break down the process into steps to help you see the path. We are here to simplify the strenuous divorce process and lead you towards your best outcome.

Since 2006, Barrows Firm has guided individuals just like you through the divorce process. We understand the impact of divorce on you and your family, and we are devoted to protecting your rights and supporting you in all legal aspects.

*Leslie Barrows*

Principal Attorney and Founder of Barrows Firm

# Where do I start?

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## Consultation with a Texas Divorce Attorney

Reach out to me for a consultation. This is an opportunity for us to discuss your unique circumstances, your concerns, and your goals. Together, we'll explore the best approach for your situation.

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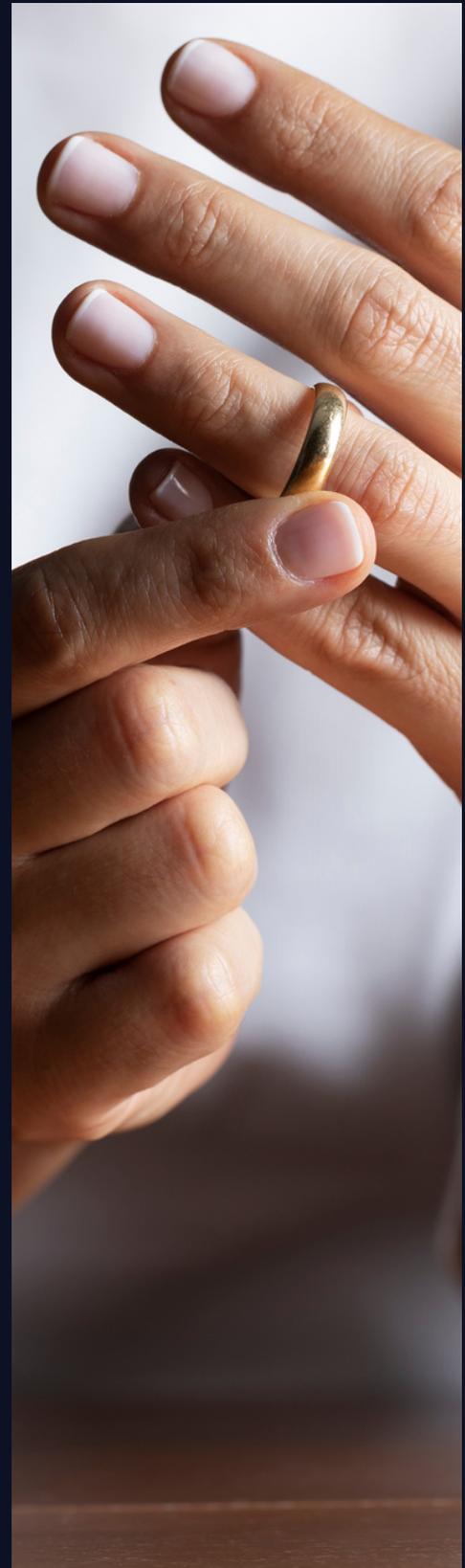
## Crafting Your Strategy

Once we've determined the best approach for you, I'll create a personalized strategy. Whether you're aiming for a peaceful resolution or need aggressive representation, my goal is to ensure your interests are protected.

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## Filing for Divorce

With your strategy in place, I will handle the legal paperwork, which is called the original petition for divorce. This step marks the beginning of the formal process and sets the stage for negotiation or litigation.





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## Continuing the Process

Once the petition has been drafted, filed and accepted by the court, then your spouse can either sign a waiver of service acknowledging that they are a party to the suit and do not need to be served OR we can have your spouse served by a process server. Once a waiver of service is signed OR your spouse is served, we will begin the process of exchanging information with the other side in preparation for negotiation or litigation

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## Temporary Orders

This is the first hearing during the divorce process. It is requested with the court after the original petition is filed. This covers child custody, who will stay in the home, who will be responsible for bills, etc. If you and your spouse are able to come to an agreement on these issues, a temporary orders hearing will not be needed.

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## Pre-trial Conference

This is something that we will request from the court in order to receive a final trial date.

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## Inventory and Appraisement

This will tell us what assets there are in the marriage. Both parties will need to gather and exchange all information.

## Negotiations

8 If you and your spouse can't agree to all the terms in your divorce, and before moving forward with a final trial, we will attempt mediation to resolve disputes. Mediation can occur sooner, but this is the last chance for both parties to come to some sort of an agreement on their own. I'll support you in negotiating terms that are fair and amicable. Your well-being and the well-being of your children are at the forefront of every discussion.

## Final Trial

9 In cases where negotiation isn't fruitful, litigation may be necessary. Rest assured, I'll be a fierce advocate in the courtroom, protecting your rights and interests with determination and skill.

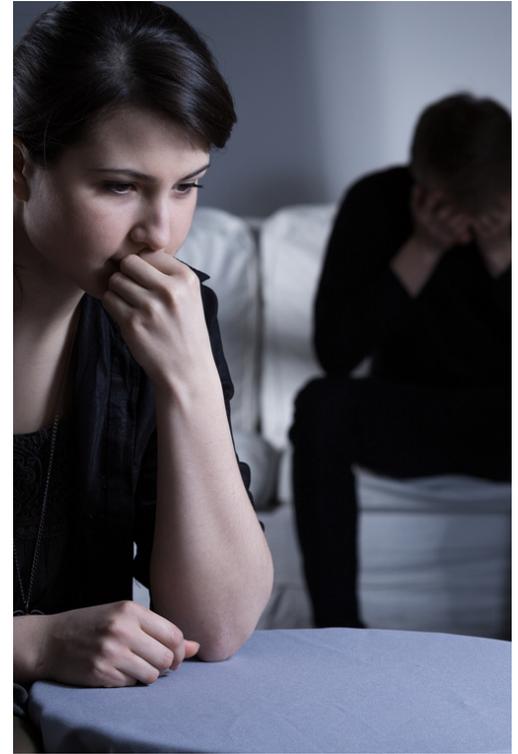
The final trial allows the judge to review each spouse's requests. The judge can't finalize a divorce at the hearing until 60 days after the petition for divorce was filed.



## Divorce Without Court: Collaborative Divorce

A collaborative divorce is a legal divorce process that allows couples to negotiate all the terms of a divorce in a private setting, without the need for going to court. It is a cost-and-time-saving approach that is less emotionally damaging, especially for families. It can be an alternative for couples who are willing to use a combination of mediation and negotiation to reach an agreement on the critical terms of divorce, like property and debt division, child custody and child support, and spousal support.

# Pre-Divorce Checklist



## ✓ **GATHER FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS**

Collect important financial documents, including tax returns, bank statements, investment records, mortgage statements, and details about assets and debts. This information is crucial for property division, child support and spousal support considerations.

## ✓ **ORGANIZE YOUR DOCUMENTS**

Compile personal documents such as marriage certificates, birth certificates of children, prenuptial agreements (if applicable), and any legal agreements you and your spouse have entered into during the marriage.

## ✓ **CREATE A BUDGET**

Assess your financial situation and create a budget to understand your current expenses and potential post-divorce financial needs. This will help you make informed decisions about spousal support and property division.

## ✓ **INVENTORY YOUR ASSETS AND DEBTS**

List all assets and liabilities acquired during the marriage, including real estate, vehicles, investments, and debts. Having a comprehensive inventory will aid in the division of property.

## ✓ **CHILD-RELATED INFORMATION**

If you have children, gather information about their schedules, school activities, healthcare needs, child-related expenses, and any existing custody arrangements. This information will guide custody negotiations.

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*Leslie and her team at the Barrows Firm are exceptional! They possess outstanding communication skills and are incredibly patient, which made my divorce process a smooth and seamless one. I highly recommend this fast-paced and confident team to anyone looking for a skilled and reliable legal team. Trust me, they won't disappoint you!*

*-Shelby M. Google Review*

