

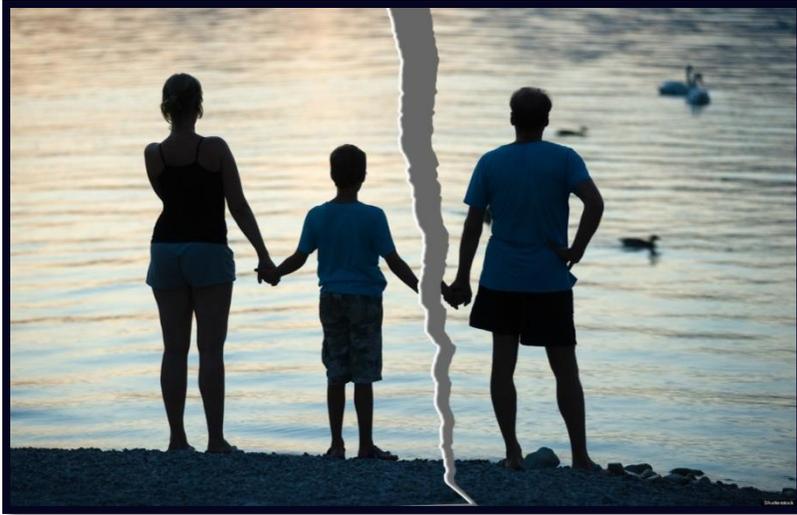
TOP 5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE FILING FOR DIVORCE IN ARIZONA

“Jumping into divorce without knowing your rights can be a major mistake and can have repercussions that affect the entire rest of your life.”



SINGER PISTINER, P.C. YOUR PERSONAL ATTORNEYS

When you are having marital problems, ending your marriage may be the only thing on your mind. It's natural to want to move quickly and get your marriage dissolved as fast as possible. However, jumping into divorce without knowing your rights can be a major mistake and can have repercussions that affect the entire rest of your life.



Before you move forward with the divorce process, there are a few key things you should be aware of to protect yourself, your kids and your future. Check out this list of the top 5 things to know before filing for divorce in AZ.

TOP 5 THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE FILING FOR AN ARIZONA DIVORCE

1. Your marriage is not going to end for at least 60 days.

In Arizona, it takes at least 60 days from the time of the initial filing in order to formally end your marriage. This process may be slowed down if your spouse delays in responding, if the papers aren't served properly, or if there is disagreement about any aspect of your divorce settlement. An Arizona divorce attorney can help take care of court paperwork requirements and keep the process moving forward so you can dissolve the marriage as quickly as possible.

2. Your divorce is probably going to be a *no fault* divorce.

Gone are the days when you need to prove your spouse was abusive or an adulterer in order to get a divorce. Today, almost all dissolutions in the state of Arizona occur because the marriage is irretrievably broken. Even if your spouse was cheating on you or did



something wrong, filing for a no fault divorce is still generally your only option. The good news is that this can make the process of moving forward with the divorce easier. You don't need your spouse's permission to file for divorce, nor do you need his or her cooperation. You just need to make sure the paperwork is filled out correctly and that your spouse is served.

3. You can create your own divorce agreement outside of court.

There are lots of issues to decide when you end a marriage, from child custody to who keeps the home to what spousal support is appropriate. You can leave all of these decisions up to a judge, who will apply Arizona law. However, litigating every matter can be really expensive and you may end up with a divorce agreement that no one likes. It is often far better to try to work together, compromise and create a negotiated settlement agreement. When each spouse is represented by a lawyer, attorneys can guide the negotiation process, explain the laws and help you reach consensus. Mediators or collaborative divorce

coaches can also guide you to compromise so you end up with an agreement that works for your family.

4. You usually can't make your spouse move out of your shared house.



During the process of divorce, both spouses have a right to be in a shared family home. This can become uncomfortable, but there are few options for you other than to leave yourself. If your spouse is engaging in any type of abusive or threatening behavior, you may be able to get a temporary order that requires him or her to leave the house. However, while an experienced Arizona divorce lawyer will be able to help you request a temporary orders hearing for sole and exclusive use of a residence, this hearing will typically not happen for a couple of months. If one spouse does voluntarily move

out, the value of remaining in the home (minus expenses paid) is factored in when the divorce settlement is reached.

5. Your property is probably going to be divided in half.

Arizona is a community property state. This means that all of the property that was purchased or acquired over the course of the marriage is considered to belong to both of the spouses who make up the marital unit. It does not matter if

only one spouse earned money, or if only one spouse bought or invested in assets. Everything still belongs to both parties and each party is entitled to a 50-50 share of the shared marital or “community” property. This doesn’t mean everything is 100 percent divided in two, but it does mean that, in the end, each spouse gets assets (and debts) worth an equal amount. Separate property, or money owned before marriage or inherited by only one spouse, does stay with the spouse to whom it belongs. A premarital agreement or prenuptial contract can also result in a different division of property, depending upon the circumstances.

GETTING LEGAL HELP

These five things are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to what you need to know when getting divorced in Arizona. Contact the experienced Phoenix divorce attorneys at [Singer Pistiner, P.C.](http://www.singerpistiner.com) to learn more.

About Singer Pistiner, P.C.

In the midst of a family crisis, you may feel like you have nowhere to turn. But there is a solution. At Singer Pistiner, P.C., we will help you to find it. As a small firm, we are able to respond quickly to your needs and concerns. The efficiencies of being a small firm also enable us to provide high-quality legal services at affordable rates.

At Singer Pistiner, P.C., in Phoenix, Arizona, we know that divorce is an emotionally and financially taxing experience. That's why we provide you with a simple, quick and personalized approach to family law services where you will deal with one attorney who will handle your case from start to finish.

Your Personal Attorneys

Throughout the legal process, our lawyers will keep you informed of important developments. We will return your phone calls, answer your questions and address any additional issues that may arise in the course of your case.

We will devote all of the time and effort needed to achieve the best possible outcome. Our law firm can take your case to family court, which is a part of the Superior Court of Arizona, or handle it through another avenue of resolution, such as mediation. In addition to divorce, our lawyers handle paternity, prenuptial agreements, grandparents' rights, orders of protection, child relocation, and modification and enforcement issues.

In any family law case, your best interests are our overriding concern. Our goal is to find the right solution for you — in an efficient, timely and affordable manner.

**OUR FAMILY LAW ATTORNEYS PROUDLY SERVE PHOENIX, GLENDALE, SURPRISE,
SCOTTSDALE, TEMPE, CHANDLER AND MESA**

If you'd like to know more about how our Phoenix family law firm handles divorce and other family issues, please feel free to call 602-264-0110 or send us an e-mail to schedule a free initial consultation.

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