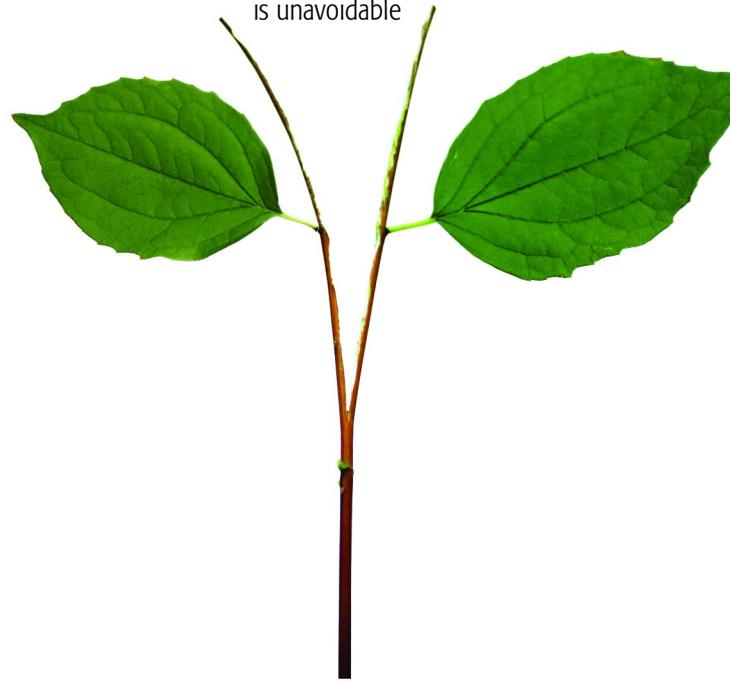


Marriage Over? Divorce like there is a tomorrow.

What you need to know today about
choices, control and the future
when the end of marriage
is unavoidable

**Sensible alternatives
to litigation** create more
livable futures for
couples and their children,
usually at one-half to
two-thirds the cost.



The Center for Principled Family Advocacy
216-37-FAMAD (216-373-2623) www.famad.com

Sensible alternatives to the high costs of litigating your divorce

Divorce inevitable?

You have alternatives to costly litigation and a lifetime of hostility

Facing divorce? You probably assume you're in for a long and painful courtroom process. Divorce can devour your financial and emotional resources and leave your post-divorce life a constant courtroom battle.

It doesn't have to. You have alternatives to litigating your divorce.

You and your spouse can choose a guided, proven and court-approved method for ending your marriage and settling parenting issues. Aside from lowering costs, a non-litigation approach is more likely to produce a more livable future for you and your separated family.

You might be hurt and angry now. That's human. Yet eventually you'll want to get on with your life. If divorce is unavoidable, it makes sense to keep yours as constructive as possible.

Litigation could be right for you

But giving in to the dark side of how you feel today almost never is. Pursuing litigation and other activities at any cost to get back at your spouse prolongs the agony, increases costs and can reduce your options.

Empower yourself. Create the best possible future for you and your children. Speak with an attorney trained and experienced in alternatives to litigating your divorce and family issues.



How does non-litigated divorce work?

The Center for Principled Family Advocacy trains divorce attorneys in alternatives to litigation. When you hire a Center-trained lawyer, he or she will explain your options, including litigation, then guide you to the approach most suited to your situation.

Because different situations call for different methods, the Center trains attorneys in a number of techniques. You and your spouse might be able to come to an agreement with a minimum of help. The more contested the issues or the more one spouse is willing to take advantage of the other's hurt, guilt or timidity, the more you'll want increasing involvement of your attorney and neutral third parties to protect you.

You get the best results when you get involved

All divorce settlements must be approved by a judge. In some cases, you will do better to give more decision-making power to the judge, arbitrator or the attorneys. But the more choices you make for yourself, the more control you have and the more likely you are to get a result you prefer.

Non-litigation methods can be used to settle marital, parental, probate and other family issues. You can use different methods for different parts of your divorce: one for property division, another for custody. With some exceptions, you can switch methods at any time.

Resolution methods

Approaches are listed in order of the most personal involvement and control to the least. As you move down the list, the more power neutral third parties like arbitrators and judges have to make binding decisions.

■ **Mediation:** You and your spouse work with a mediator to resolve differences. Before, between and sometimes during sessions, your attorney can guide you on your rights and obligations.

■ **Collaboration:** After committing to not threaten or resort to court intervention, you, your spouse and your attorneys contract to resolve issues in a win-win manner without a mediator. The attorneys also commit to withdraw from the case if a settlement is not reached.

■ **Principled Negotiation:** The couple and their attorneys set a time frame and ground rules to resolve issues on their merits without a mediator, looking for mutual gains whenever possible. You may ask the attorney to negotiate without you.

■ **Facilitated Negotiation:** The couple and their attorneys agree to a structured negotiation with the aid of a neutral third party who oversees the process, may settle certain issues and assists in bringing closure to the negotiation.

■ **Arbitration:** The couples and their attorneys present evidence in a streamlined manner to a neutral person or panel for either a binding or a non-binding decision.

■ **Litigation:** The Center recognizes that in certain circumstances, litigation remains the most appropriate process for dispute resolution.

For more information and a list of Center-trained attorneys, visit www.famad.com or call us at 216-37- FAMAD (216-373-2623).

Why do we do this?

After watching countless clients counter-productively pursue hostile approaches to divorce, a small group of Northern Ohio divorce attorneys formed The Center for Principled Family Advocacy.

Today, a select number of area attorneys are assisting their clients to move forward to the next phase in their lives. Sensible alternatives to litigation create more livable futures for couples and their children, usually at one-half to two-thirds the cost. While a combative divorce can produce high attorney fees long in to the future, the resulting destruction is rarely worth the fight for anyone involved.

If you're facing divorce, consider all there is to gain through cooperation, understanding and maintaining a level of mutual respect. You may find you can overcome any negative feelings from your marriage, and, with the guidance of a Center-trained attorney, do the right thing for you and your children.

Do You Know Someone Heading for Divorce?

If you're a therapist, couples counselor, pastor, lawyer, physician or anyone with clients or patients facing or going through divorce, please encourage them to learn about alternatives to litigation that will lead to smarter decisions, less financial burden and better new lives.

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