



AMICABLE DIVORCE NETWORK

Information Booklet

Information to decide if an Amicable Divorce is right for you





Founded in 2019, the Amicable Divorce Network is the only organization in the world vetting divorce industry professionals.

We vet all members for being:

- experienced in family law;
- having a resolution focus and;
- engaging in fair billing practices.

The Amicable Divorce Network serves to promote low conflict and efficient divorce practices, child-focused solutions and to connect parties with vetted professionals interested in helping them, not running up an unnecessary bill. Members of our organization believe there is a better way for people to divorce and are committed to assisting parties with low conflict ways to resolve their issues while providing the highest caliber of experience and knowledge to assist them.

Many are suspicious about a concept where by attorneys and other professionals make less money by resolving amicable cases efficiently because it seems so unusual that anyone would choose to earn less money per case. But the simple fact is that many professionals were attracted to family law because they wanted to help people and they believe the current system is flawed, filled with unnecessary conflict and delay and bad for the parties and their children. The legal community has agreed and awarded the Founder of the Amicable Divorce Network a Georgia Legal Award (2020) and Southeastern Legal Award (2023). The organization now welcomes members and clients from all over the world.



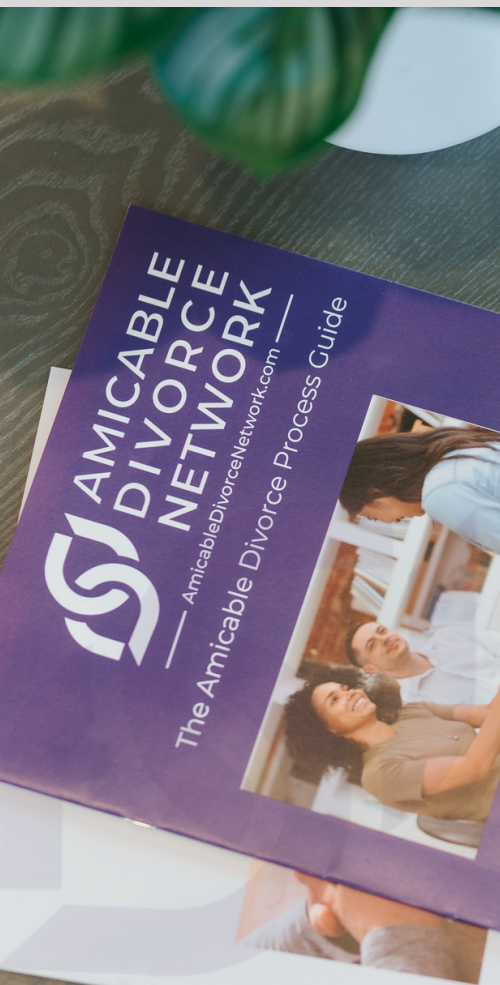
WHAT TYPE OF DIVORCE IS BEST FOR YOU?

Often people facing divorce do not understand that the way they approach their divorce is their choice. There is not just one way to divorce. People have an impression that the only way to obtain a divorce is to lawyer up and duke it out in court, and in some circumstances, the involvement of the court is absolutely necessary. However, in a majority of circumstances, parties engage in the traditional divorce approach with attorneys, take months doing extensive discovery, are pitted against one another to fight for what they want, spend hard earned money on exhaustive attorney fees and end up settling their case anyway. With the Amicable Divorce Process, parties take control of their case themselves. The [Amicable Divorce Network](#) provides a professionally guided out of court process which is low conflict, efficient, and focuses on resolution-not court.

Parties facing divorce should first decide how they are choosing to approach their divorce and then they should find an attorney to aligns with their perspective. Clients should never be afraid to question any attorney they are looking at hiring about the attorney's attitude about the divorce process and whether that attorney will honor the client's choices and goals. The three different ways to divorce differ in 3 main areas: cost, time and level of conflict. Generally speaking, a divorce falls into one of the following three categories:

Uncontested Divorce: Often called a "kitchen table agreement", the parties have all of their issues worked out. They only need a lawyer to assist with the preparation and filing of the paperwork. The Amicable Divorce Network (ADN) can be used to find low conflict attorneys who will assist with this process. It is always a good idea, even if a divorce is uncontested, that both parties have access to legal advice and have the documents reviewed and prepared by an attorney. Utilizing the ADN will assure parties get advice from a professional who will honor the parties' wishes to keep the matter uncontested while giving each party the advice and guidance they need to have such an important matter handled properly. Using online forms and trying to navigate the system without an attorney is never advised and many parties are unable to properly navigate the court system.

Amicable Divorce: The Amicable Divorce Network process is centered around the attitude of the parties and their desire to resolve their family law matter efficiently and with low conflict. Many parties desire an uncontested divorce, but lack the knowledge or ability to navigate division of accounts, child support calculations, support obligations, tax consequences and parenting plans. For a divorce to utilize the Amicable Divorce Process, **both must agree** to utilize this process and professionals in the Amicable Divorce Network for their divorce. Only members of the Amicable Divorce Network are trained on the Amicable Divorce Process and have access to the Amicable Divorce Network technology platform. ADN members are also vetted for being resolution focused, experienced, and engaging in fair billing practices. The parties agree to use members of the Amicable Divorce Network who share their mindset and will work with the parties to keep the matter on track to resolution.



The parties may or may not have some of their issues worked out at the outset of the case, but if there are disagreements, they agree to use alternate dispute resolution means (such as mediation) to resolve differences instead of the court system. The discovery process is streamlined to focus on each party obtaining the information they need to make informed decisions about their case. Settlements are worked out before anything is filed with the court (unless otherwise dictated by state law) and all documents are filed with the court at the same time so the court is aware that the case is fully settled. The process can also be used for other family law cases such as child support modification, visitation modifications and other matters where both parties agree they have a dispute that needs to be resolved.

The parties have other network professionals available to them to assist with the divorce including mental health professionals, financial professionals, mortgage and real estate professionals, wellness experts, coaches and more so that they can have a fully informed divorce from start to finish while still keeping an eye on efficient resolution. As attorneys can ethically only serve the interests of one client, the Amicable Divorce Network serves to connect both parties with low conflict attorneys, and a team of professionals, to work together to obtain a divorce.

Traditional/ Contested Divorce: Whereas an Amicable Divorce ends with filing a divorce with the court, a traditional/contested divorce begins with the filing of the divorce paperwork and the other party being served (depending on your jurisdictional rules), sometimes by law enforcement. The case is placed on a timeline dictated by their particular jurisdiction and they may or may not use alternate dispute methods to resolve disputes. The selection of attorneys is entirely up to the parties and the attorneys may be resolution or litigation oriented. Litigated divorce are more expensive, take much longer, and have higher conflict between the parties. In some situations, it is appropriate to use the traditional court process. Amicable Divorce Network attorneys are experienced in all forms of family law cases and can help you weigh your options and arrive at a decision.

MOVING FORWARD

Once the decision is made to pursue an Amicable Divorce, the next step is to find an attorney that will assist you with meeting your goals and handling your case the way you have chosen. If an Uncontested or Amicable Divorce is chosen, the Amicable Divorce Network (ADN) has identified all of the professionals who can assist you with the process from start to finish. All members can be found in the Membership Directory at AmicableDivorceNetwork.com and DivorceAmicably.com. You can sort professionals by country, state, county and profession. If selecting an attorney first, they will advise you on additional professionals they recommend for your case.

WHO IS IN THE AMICABLE DIVORCE NETWORK?

The Amicable Divorce Network (ADN) is an organization of professionals who work in the divorce industry. Members are invited to join the network or apply for membership and go through a professional vetting process. Members must have the professional experience and standards set by the network and they hold the ideals that promote low conflict and cost efficient divorce solutions.

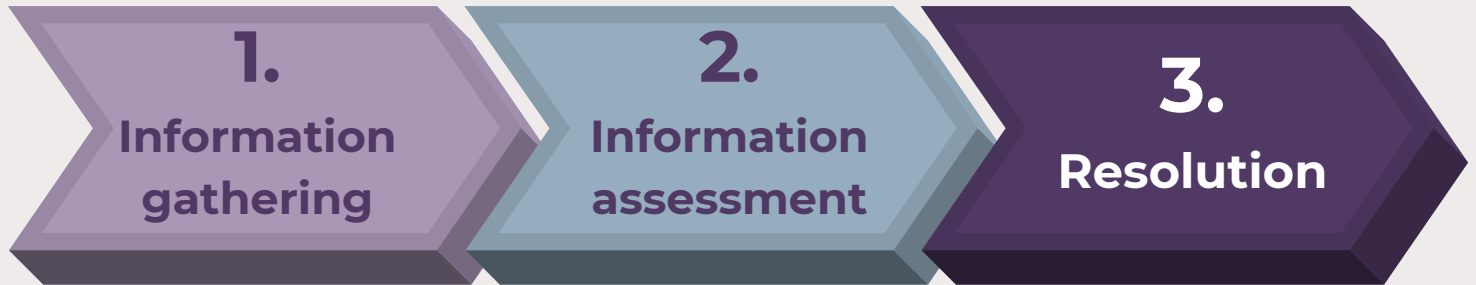
Professionals in the network include:

- Attorneys
- Mental health professionals
- Mediators
- Arbitrators
- Parent Coordinators
- Mortgage brokers
- Financial advisors
- Real estate agents
- Appraisers
- Insurance agents
- CPAs
- Divorce and Life Coaches
- Business Valuation Experts
- Certified Divorce Financial Analysts
- Health & Wellness Professionals
- Forensic Accountants
- and More!

In addition to being a professional network, the Amicable Divorce Network is also the originator of the Amicable Divorce Process (explained in more detail below). Only network members receive training on this process.

THE DIVORCE PROCESS

Regardless of what type of divorce the parties select from the 3 noted previously, each and every divorce case has the same 3 stages no matter how complicated or simple the issues:



- 1. Information gathering:** What are the issues that require resolution? What are the assets and debts? Income of the parties? Needs of the children? What all do we need to identify and what do we need to resolve? Without correct and complete information, parties have difficulty moving forward.
- 2. Information assessment:** During this stage the assembled team will calculate support and budgets, develop proposed Parenting Plans, value any businesses and complicated assets and explore options with real estate. No matter how complicated the issues may seem, our experienced professionals can assist you with obtaining the proper information and assessment on your issues so you have the facts you need to make decisions.
- 3. Resolution:** Every case reaches a conclusion. Whether it is by the parties sitting down themselves, with a mediator, or a Judge dictating the resolution after a trial, the case will end. Who is controlling what happens is the important part. In the Amicable Divorce Network we focus on negotiation, mediation and other dispute resolution tools to bring a case to a conclusion and keep the control solely with the parties. Many surveys and studies have been conducted over the years and the results have been that only 5% of divorces end up having a final trial. This means that as many as 95% of cases are settled outside the court system. The Amicable Divorce Network focuses on getting your case efficiently concluded by focusing on how to resolve all issues, not how to prepare them for trial.



Dtour.life is partnered with Amicable Divorce Network to create our technology platform. This platform is available to all Amicable Divorce Network members. Dtour.life is a sophisticated digital collaboration tool. It has many features that assist with the gathering of information by providing the ability to link to financial institutions for an immediate download of income and expense transaction data. Data will be auto-categorized and is easily edited. Assign expenses to assets and debts for individual budgets now and into the future. Associate expenses with children to identify outflows each month. Automatically create an income and expense report and begin creating the framework for your finances.

Dtour.life allows for the assessment information including asset and debt synching, budgeting, constantly updating net worth reports and the ability to explore various settlement scenarios with the Marital Balance Sheet Tool. Users can easily add mediators, mortgage professionals and others to the system to review their information as opposed to providing it receptively to different people. You can store documents, take notes, and begin to build a Parenting Plan as well.

You can explore more information and features at [Dtour.life](https://dtour.life).



COMMON QUESTIONS

Why do both parties have to use attorneys in the Amicable Divorce Network?

The Amicable Divorce Process is a different process than a traditional divorce. Only network members are trained on the process. Members also are vetted for amicable ideals and have a level of experience and professionalism required by the network.



“Amicable” sounds like I am agreeing to whatever my spouse wants.

In an amicable divorce case, parties still exchange any needed information and negotiate for their desired result. They are represented by their chosen legal professional who represents their best interest while focusing on low conflict and cost effective solutions to issues that arise. Studies show that when both parties are represented by counsel, parties have better settlements & results. A benefit of an Amicable Divorce is that should a dispute arise, it is not resolved by the attorneys filing expensive and time consuming motions for the judge to resolve the issue sometimes months later. Resolution is found through attorneys working together, mediation, and if a third party needs to make a decision, then arbitration. Parties may also enlist the assistance of financial professionals, parent coordinators and others to help them navigate the process and reach decisions on their issues.

What if I hire an attorney in the Amicable Divorce Network but my spouse hires an attorney who isn't in ADN?

The Amicable Divorce Process cannot be used. Parties and their counsel will use the traditional court divorce process.

What if I try the Amicable Divorce Process, but something happens and I need to file with the court?

Should an emergency arise, please consult with your attorney. The Amicable Divorce Process is designed to handle many issues that occur in family law. But should you need access to the court system, nothing prevents you from ending your amicable divorce and initiating a court proceeding. In most circumstances, you can continue to use your Amicable Divorce Network professionals in a contested litigation, if you choose.





HOW LONG WILL MY CASE TAKE?

Depending on the needs of the parties, the Amicable Divorce Process can be accelerated or slowed down as the process is entirely flexible. Because the parties are in control of the process, not the whim of the court system, they dictate the timeline they feel is best for their family. Parties should communicate to their selected attorneys their desired timeline for their case. Parties have a multitude of professionals available to them in the Amicable Divorce Network to assist them before, during, and after divorce.

Once a settlement is reached and filed with the court, the parties will need to wait for their case to be finalized by the Court. This is determined by your respective jurisdiction. During this time many jurisdictions require the parties to take a parenting class or similar if minor children are involved. Parties should also use this time to work with mortgage brokers, financial and insurance professionals and more to effectuate the terms of their divorce and plan to move forward.

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE AMICABLE DIVORCE PROCESS

- The timeline of the case can be slowed down if a party needs more time for any reason or accelerated;
- Both parties are represented by counsel who represent their best interests and help them achieve their goals throughout the process;
- The many professionals in the Amicable Divorce Network are involved as necessary on a case by case basis;
- Simple or complex cases are ideal for the Amicable Divorce Process. Complicated cases involving business, complex assets and issues can benefit from the streamlined process as the parties focus in getting information to reach a resolution, not paying multiple professionals to testify in a contested proceeding;
- Many attorneys charge less per hour, per retainer (or both) for Amicable cases;
- If either party decides at any point that the amicable divorce process is not for them, they can exit the process and file a traditional divorce. Their chosen attorney can continue to represent them in that process.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

You can find additional resources, public events and find member professionals at:



Follow us for events, information and more "Amicable Divorce Network" and "Divorce Amicably" on:



Watch informative videos about amicable divorce and related topics on:



Join our community and connect with professionals and the public in our Facebook Group "Divorce Amicably Community"



