



10 Mistakes You Must Avoid When Considering Divorce by Jacqui Forrest...

1. **DIY.** That's right many people think they can do the divorce themselves. Let me ask you, do you think you can do brain surgery too – no, you can't. Getting divorced means you want an expert in divorce and family law on your side. It may be a collaborative approach you need or it may be more "combative" to get what you are worth and want. Only by getting an expert involved will you know.
2. **Going cheap.** By all means ask for a fixed price for your divorce. But in life you generally get what you pay for. Some solicitors will be cheaper than others but generally you find that an experienced and expert solicitor will cost more than someone that does divorce work and other work. Expertise is worth paying for.
3. **Wrong Solicitor?** How do you know that someone is right for you when it comes to being your legal representative. Make sure you meet the prospective solicitor and go with a list of questions that you want answered or call them and ask. You'll find out pretty quickly when a solicitor sounds knowledgeable, has obvious rapport with you and is empathetic.
4. **Legal Aid.** Forget it. As from April 2013 lots of Legal Aid is being stopped. Which means you won't get Legal Aid for divorce cases unless there is domestic abuse involved.
5. **Pre-Nuptial Agreements are always legally binding.** No they aren't. Sometimes they are and sometimes they aren't upheld in court. The recent Radmacher case shows they can be upheld and they can be critical in many cases. But they have to be well-written and not signed under any duress or pressure.
6. **I'm going to hide some money from my ex-partner.** No you're not. Firstly when you get caught you'll have a hefty fine to pay and you're going to end up being in trouble. Secondly, what do you think solicitors hire forensic accountants for? That's right, to go after those secret bank accounts and properties and other assets.
7. **Using Black Hat tactics.** These tactics are often ways to get other people to do what you want them to do. But some are illegal, some are borderline and some others are pretty immoral. But which are which? That takes an expert to tell you.

8. **Timing.** Life really is about great timing. Settle early and you might lose out. Settle late and things may have changed disadvantageously for you. Settle because you're under financial pressure and you're on the back foot. Settle when there's a recession and you may not get a fair amount. Settle when things are going well and you may benefit or lose out, depending on whether you've got the assets or not.
 9. **Being stubborn.** You might not like the fact that you don't know it all but that's no reason to dig your heels in. Listen to your solicitor, (they have insurance that covers them for negligence anyway if things go really wrong) because it's their job to figure all this stuff out and you go on living your life.
 10. **Not facing FACTS.** Divorce is hard. There's no doubt about it. Sometimes we say that it can be a breakthrough rather than a break-up. If your marriage is over then it is something that is better to sort out so you can make a fresh start...rather than hoping things will work out. After all, even if you get divorced and things between you go brilliantly there's no reason you can't get married again! Unlikely, but we have known it to happen!
-

To get yourself up to date with the law and how it can help you in your situation call Jacqui Forrest at www.SolicitorsInBournemouth.com

On 0844 874 5377

Free SIB 30 minute consultation with this voucher. Please sign this voucher to validate it and bring it with you to your appointment.

Name _____

Signature _____