

LAW OFFICE OF  
**NANETTE S. STRINGER**

2600 EL CAMINO REAL, #200  
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA 94306  
TELEPHONE: (650) 812-1800  
FAX: (650) 812-0217  
stringerfamilylaw.com

**Nanette S. Stringer**

CERTIFIED SPECIALIST -- FAMILY LAW  
THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA  
BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION  
nanette@stringerfamilylaw.com

## **FAMILY LAW BIBLIOGRAPHY**

There are many books available; and increasingly, you can find very helpful information online.

This bibliography is a partial list of books which clients, and family lawyers and therapists have found informative. Please feel free to give suggestions for new books to add, or internet sites to consider:

### **INTERNET SITES**

California Court: Self-Help Center: [www.courtinfo.ca.gov](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov).

Forms: You can fill out all forms online, or you can print them out and fill them in from this website: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms/>. Use the pull-down menu to select family law forms, and then click on the form you want to review or fill out.

Santa Clara County and San Mateo County websites: From these websites you can access directions, information, custody information, and you can check on the status of your case if you have events or documents pending in court:

San Mateo:

<http://www.sanmateocourt.org/director.php?filename=./famlaw/index.html>

Santa Clara: <http://www.sccsuperiorcourt.org/family/default.htm>

Association of Family Law Specialists: [www.acfls.org](http://www.acfls.org). This site lists certified specialists in California and has information about a number of family law issues.

Lawyers.com. A layperson's site with attorney directory and some legal information. <http://www.lawyers.com>.

Kids Turn. A local program that offers classes for separated parents and their children, and also maintains a website with resources. Extensive bibliography with books for kids and parents. [www.kidsturn.org](http://www.kidsturn.org)

## BOOKS

My favorite books are marked with \*\*

### GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT DIVORCE

How To Do Your Own Divorce in California. Charles Sherman, Nolo Press. Annual editions. Nolo Press also publishes several other books on related topics. This is an excellent summary of forms, procedures, and general family law information.

California Marriage Law. Ed Sherman, Nolo Press. This guide covers cohabitation and premarital agreements, basics of estate planning, laws affecting children, domestic violence, and divorce planning.

\*\*Divorce and Money. Nolo Press. This book examines the financial issues relating to divorce, such as options related to asset division, assignment of debts, support, etc.

For Better or for Worse. E. Mavis Hetherington. Results from a comprehensive, long-term study of divorced families.

How to get divorced without ruining your life. Sam Margulies, Ph.D. Fireside Press. Although written by a New York lawyer (and the state laws are different), his explanation of the process, and on working with mediators and lawyers, has been helpful to clients.

### MEDIATION, COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE, AND NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENTS

\*\*The Divorce Mediation Handbook. Paula James. I recommend this book whether or not you are in mediation. Although the author is a Texas lawyer, her general discussions about family law and approaches to settlement are applicable anywhere.

\*\*The Collaborative Way to Divorce. Stuart G. Webb. Whether you are interested in collaborative divorce, or just reading about how to approach any divorce, I think this is a very sound manual, emphasizing practical and compassionate approaches to the various issues one faces in divorce.

A Guide to Divorce Mediation. Gary J. Friedman. Workman Press, 1993.

Collaborative Divorce. Pauline Tesler. Harper Collins. A very good explanation of collaborative law and also good on a discussion of how to avoid protracted legal fighting even in a more traditional family law dispute resolution setting.

**\*\*Getting to Yes: Negotiating an Agreement Without Giving In.**

William Ury and Roger Fisher. Houghton, Mifflin, 1983. The standard treatise on negotiating. Very helpful in family law and other negotiations. The basic premise is that if you can identify each party's needs and priorities, you can construct solutions which address each party's priorities in a way that brings mutual satisfaction.

Getting Past No: Negotiating With Difficult People. William Ury, Bantam, 1991.

You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation.

Deborah Tannen. Ballantine, 1990. A popular and enlightening book about gender differences in communication.

Difficult Conversations: How to discuss what matters most. Stone, Patton, Heen (The Harvard Negotiation Project). Penguin Books, 1999. A companion to Getting to Yes.

**CUSTODY AND PARENTING.** Please read at least one of the starred books if you have children. They are the silent victims of difficult divorces, and yet there is so much you can do to help them adjust to, and even thrive under, the experience of parents who live apart.

Growing Up With Divorce: Helping Your Child Avoid Immediate and Later Emotional Problems. Neil Kalter. Ballantine, 1990.

**\*\*Mom's House, Dad's House.** Isolina Ricci. Collier, 1980.

Still one of the best books on custody and children's needs during divorce.

Vicki Lansky's Divorce Book for Parents. A simply-written and very practical guide on all aspects of separation, divorce, and children. Recommended by several clients.

Co-Parenting After Divorce. A short and concise book, with suggestions on dealing with many co-parenting issues.

**\*\*Why Did You Have to Get a Divorce, and When can I get a Hamster?** Anthony E. Wolf, Ph.D. My favorite basic book on this subject: specific, wise, witty and compassionate.

**\*\*Difficult Questions Kids Ask [and are too afraid to ask] About Divorce.** Meg Schneider and Joan Zuckerberg. This book also explores adult's feelings as a prelude to discussing the experience of divorce from a child's perspective, and how to help.

Winning as a stepfamily. Emily and Paul Visher. A good guide for families in stepfamily situations.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

**\*\*Making the Most of Your Money Now.** Jane Bryant Quinn. Updated for 2010 and beyond. Excellent basic resource on all financial matters and a good discussion of divorce and money (but contains some information that does not apply in California).

## **BOOKS FOR CHILDREN**

I encourage you to browse in the local bookstores, as well as on online booksellers, because there are a number of good books for children, and only you will know which are most likely to appeal to your children. My favorites are:

**\*\*Dinosaurs Divorce: A Guide for Changing Families.** Laurene and Marc Brown. A wonderful book for young children.

How It Feels When Parents Divorce. Jill Krementz. Also excellent, for older children. Parents may learn from this book also.

**\*\*Mom's House, Dad's House for Kids.** A client told me about this book, written by Isolina Ricci who wrote the outstanding book Mom's House, Dad's House. Please consider purchasing this book for your children and following the steps outlined in the "Message to Parents" at the front of the book.

## **BOOKS ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE EMOTIONAL ASPECTS OF SEPARATION & DIVORCE, AND THE DECISION TO SEPARATE.**

The Good Divorce. Constance Ahrons. A good handbook on emotional issues related to divorce, with an emphasis on rebuilding a new, positive family structure. Covers many related issues.

Uncoupling. Diane Vaughan. A sociological study of aspects of separation.

Crazy Time: Surviving Divorce and Building a New Life. Abigail Trafford.

Learn to Forgive. Fred Luskin. Although not a book about divorce per se, this is an excellent book about learning to cope with disappointments in relationships and the healing process.

Too Good to Leave, Too Bad to Stay. Mira Kirshenbaum. A guide to the ambivalent feelings that accompany the separation process, and help deciding whether to do so or not.

**FICTION AND MEMOIRS THAT I LIKE.** Sometimes getting advice from psychologists or lawyers is just not as comforting as reading about someone else's feelings and experiences, and recovery from, a divorce.

The Three Weismanns of Westport. Cathleen Schine

\*\*Divorced Happily Ever After. Jessica Bram.

Happens Every Day. Isabel Gillies.

Falling Apart in One Piece. Stacey Morrison.