

# FOUR REASONS—A DO IT YOUR-SELF DIVORCE IS A BAD IDEA



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In today's economy it is becoming more and more tempting to take on tasks that we used leave to the professionals. Your divorce is not the place to start cutting corners.

## 1 Not All Forms Are Created Equal

Some cookie cutter forms can create more problems than they solve. When children and real estate or other major assets are involved, the forms may not contain sufficient detail to accomplish the couple's goals.

## 2 Check Lists Leave Little Room For Creativity

All marriages are different and so are the divorces. Financial and household responsibilities are handled differently in every marriage. This can cause a disparity in information. If the husband and wife do not have equal information and equal power in the relationship, one person might unwittingly leave something out of the decree and not get his or her needs met.

## 3 It Is Easier To Prevent Bad Things From Happening Than to "Undo" Them Once They Have Occurred

Court rules and statutes are not the easiest things to read and understand — even for experienced attorneys. One of the most common errors of do-it-yourself divorce is not filing all of the required documents, resulting in significant delays or worse. These kinds of mistakes are not as unusual as you might think. They not only cost additional money, but potential embarrassment, and stress.

## 4 The Cost Of A Simple Uncontested Divorce May Not Be As High As You Think

In most jurisdiction, there are lawyers who offer flat fee or retainers of under \$1000.00 for the truly uncontested divorce. A divorce is only uncontested if the parties have agreed on all issues (i.e. child support, custody, division of assets, division of debts, spousal support). Many firms will even offer payment plans. This is a small price to pay to make sure that your divorce is done right.