



Massachusetts Divorce Timelines...Now In 3D!

by *STEPHEN F. MCDONOUGH* on *AUGUST 8, 2010*



If this is your Massachusetts divorce lawyer's or mediator's waiting room, be afraid...very afraid.

Almost everyone I meet seeking a Massachusetts divorce asks this question during their first meeting: **”How long will my divorce take?”**

Unfortunately, the real answer is one that lawyers love and clients don't appreciate – **“It depends....”** All lawyers learn this response during law school in the first year class “How to Answer Questions Without Really Saying Anything.”

Seriously, though – there are so many variables that this is a difficult question to answer with great specificity. Interestingly, the divorcing couple can have a major impact on the pace of a divorce, whether a [Massachusetts contested divorce](#), [collaborative divorce](#), or a [divorce mediation](#). In simple terms, the process used to get through the divorce plays a big role in just how long each case takes to complete.

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In order to help clients and all of humanity, I recently designed two timelines that are estimates of a typical contested [Massachusetts divorce](#) (divorce litigation) and a [Massachusetts divorce mediation](#).

Skip this part if you are NOT interested in how the 3d Timelines were created. For anyone remotely interested, I used a great program by the nice folks at [BeeDocs](#), called Timeline 3D. If you are interested in technology, the cool thing about this program is that you can export the timelines as movies...even 3D movies, and in high-def. No, you don't need funny glasses to watch them; and yes, I kept them a few minutes in length. The program is only available for Macs, not PCs. See, another reason for you to leave the dark side and switch to Macs as I have...c'mon, you know you want to. I lowered the resolution of the movies so I didn't annoy my trusted website host, and so they will load quickly. You can also print out a PDF of the timelines and share them with your friends.

So, now that you have made some popcorn and watched the short timeline videos...

What other factors can effect the speed in which your own Massachusetts divorce will be completed?

1. Litigated, or court-based divorces tend to take longer than a mediated or collaborative divorce
2. The ability of both sides to compromise
3. The styles and caseload of the attorneys on both sides (litigated cases)
4. Does either spouse (or both) have an unreasonable position or positions?
5. The emotional stages of the parties (similar to the stages of grieving)

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6. The level of cooperation by the parties in providing requested financial documents and completing financial statements
7. Flexibility of scheduling meetings, mediation sessions, etc. (Everyone seems to want a late afternoon appointment!)
8. Efficiency of your mediator, collaborative lawyer, or litigation counsel.
9. If you consider [this example to be the model for your divorce](#), then your divorce will almost certainly take longer, if it doesn't kill you.
10. All other variables – one party is required to travel frequently for their job, military deployment, illness, purposeful stalling, switching attorneys, abandoning one process to select another, etc.

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