



## Conversations *with* TOP DIVORCE ATTORNEY Reza Golesorkhi

Divorce is a difficult experience, but with the right attorney by your side, the process gets easier and you can come out on the other side stronger. We spoke with top divorce attorney Reza Golesorkhi to get better insight into how to choose a divorce lawyer and what to know before getting started.

### **What should be considered before deciding to get a divorce?**

Before you mention the “D” word, consult with an attorney and learn about the process. This needs to be a logical—not emotional—decision. Once you decide to go through with the divorce, consider whether you can do it without going to court. There are many options, such as mediation. This is a great option for disputes that can be resolved amicably.

You will need to collect financial documents to show income, debt, investments and assets. These include tax returns, bank statements, retirement statements, business investments and a list of assets.

It is also important to take steps to separate your life from your spouse, but don't make any final moves without consulting with a lawyer first. If you are in danger in any way, or are experiencing domestic violence, get help immediately.

### **When hiring a divorce attorney, what are the most important things to keep in mind?**

Make certain the attorney you choose has the experience to manage your case, as well as the ability and interest to communicate with you by promptly returning your phone calls and emails. Look for an attorney who specializes in divorce litigation and in the issues that are important to you, such as custody-related issues, business evaluations or complex family law cases. It's also important to hire an attorney who regularly appears before the higher courts, as he or she will be familiar with the judges and court system in your jurisdiction. This can help shape their strategy based on how individual judges have ruled in the past.

### **How do you know the divorce lawyer you are considering hiring is a good fit?**

Finding an attorney who aligns with your approach is a key factor. Ask how they would handle your issues. Not all family lawyers are litigators. Some tend to take a more

collaborative style over a more aggressive approach. A good divorce attorney is a skilled trial lawyer who can command the courtroom but is also a sharp negotiator who can get favorable settlements without full-blown litigation. Find the lawyer who will handle your case the way you want to approach the divorce, because divorce is personal, painful and expensive. You need someone who you can trust and who treats you with kindness, patience and respect.

### **What are common mistakes people make when hiring a divorce attorney?**

Do not select a lawyer who does not have family law experience. For example, an immigration attorney will not be helpful in your divorce case. You should also not select an attorney based on price alone. Most experienced divorce attorneys will charge \$300 to \$500 an hour. Remember, a more seasoned lawyer can get your work done more efficiently than an attorney with less experience. Hire your lawyer based on his or her experience, qualifications and approach rather than their hourly rate.

### **What makes you a top divorce attorney in the Washington, DC region?**

While I'm skilled at all facets of client advocacy, it is my skill as a trial lawyer and my command of the courtroom that sets me apart. If you're going to court, you want a lawyer like me in the courtroom. Clients going through a divorce need a lawyer and adviser who understands the law and is not afraid to stand up for their rights. That being said, only a few divorce cases actually go to court. You need an advocate that can get you a favorable settlement.

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