



COST OF DIVORCE

The actual cost of a divorce will vary based upon a number of factors. If you have a divorce involving children the cost will be much higher to run to separate households. It will be difficult to live and maintain the lifestyle you are accustomed to while married. The primary wage earner, typically the Father, may be ordered to pay spousal maintenance and child support. He will also be responsible for his own household expenses (rent, utilities, groceries, entertainment, etc.). As part of this equation, Father must also have adequate living facilities to provide for his children during his parenting time.

Conversely, the non-wage earning spouse will be under the gun to begin seeking employment or reintroduction into the workforce. A possible option is moving in with a family member or friend, however, this is usually an interim short term solution. This should not be used as a long term approach to increase your parenting time with your children.

The long term cost to both spouses should be considered specifically, child support in Arizona is payable until the youngest child reaches 18 or graduates high school, whichever is later but no longer than 19. Further, court ordered spousal maintenance in a long term marriage can vary from several years to lifetime.

Lastly and sometimes most importantly, are legal fees. In some cases, the marital assets can be depleted by legal fees. In order to keep legal fees at a manageable level, it is suggested that the parties be reasonable in their positions. Arizona allows a party to recover attorney's fees where the other party earns much greater income or takes an unreasonable position. Attorney's fees are not commonly awarded and appear to be a subjective issue for the Court.