

# 6 THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN GOING THROUGH THE DIVORCE PROCESS



LAW OFFICE OF DANIEL J. CLANTON, P.C.

DANIEL J. CLANTON

817-916-8484 | [www.clantonfamilylaw.com](http://www.clantonfamilylaw.com)

# WELCOME



Thank you for considering me to help you with your legal needs. My practice is focused on family law issues and I believe I am uniquely qualified to help clients with their issues. I believe in providing each of my clients a personal approach to their concerns and focus my energy on finding creative solutions to unique challenges.

Nearly 90% of my practice is devoted to family law and juvenile issues. I was a child of divorce and experienced firsthand how a custody fight affects children. This is a large part of why I opted to work in the family law field. I understand the importance of protecting your family, even as difficult transitions occur.

I believe communication is the cornerstone of an effective attorney-client relationship, so you can expect to be in regular contact with me throughout your case. I go out of my way to ensure you are never left wondering what is happening with your case.

My goal is to protect the rights of my clients in Colleyville and throughout Texas, and to look out for the best interests of their children. I understand how difficult divorce can be for a family and I am prepared to help clients deal with difficult issues related to spousal support, child custody, visitation, and support, property division, paternity, and modifications to existing divorce settlements.

Prior to working in the legal field, I served as an attack helicopter pilot in the military. The level of integrity, honesty, and dependability that was required to perform my patriotic duties has carried over into my legal career. If you want to work for someone who is willing to fight for your rights and the well-being of your family, I am prepared to do so.

Thank you again.



## DANIEL J. CLANTON

Law Office of Daniel J. Clanton, P.C.  
4016 Gateway Drive, Suite 130  
Colleyville, Texas 76034  
Tel. 817-916-8484  
Fax. 817-764-7407  
Email: [Daniel@Longbowlaw.com](mailto:Daniel@Longbowlaw.com)  
Website: [www.clantonfamilylaw.com](http://www.clantonfamilylaw.com)



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About 50% of all first marriages in the United States end in divorce. This is an unfortunate statistic, but what it means is divorce is no longer something spoken of in hushed tones. If you have not already been touched by divorce, chances are someone close to you has. And if your marriage is on the rocks, it might be just a matter of time before you or your spouse makes the decision to call it quits. Divorce can be scary and frustrating, but it is possible to transition through the experience with minimal damage to your ego, your bank account and your family.

If you are considering divorce or your spouse has approached you about divorce or even gone as far as serving you with a petition for divorce, do not panic. You have a lot to think about and you need to keep a clear head and make rational decisions. You are faced with an emotional situation, but with the right support, the transition from marriage to divorce can be much easier than you imagine.

What are the five most important things to consider as you proceed through your divorce?

## 1 YOUR CHILDREN

First and foremost, you must consider how your decisions and your spouse's decisions will affect your children. The goal when ending your marriage is to protect your assets as best as possible and many parents consider their children their greatest and most precious asset. You will be faced with important decisions about child custody and visitation – make sure your decisions are focused on your children's best interest.



Sadly, divorcing parents sometimes use their children as pawns to hurt their soon-to-be-former spouse, but all this really does is hurt your children and damage your relationships with them. Put aside your differences with your spouse and make the best interest of your children your first priority. Their safety, mental and emotional health, and relationship with both parents should be your most important concerns.



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## 2 YOUR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Divorce will likely mean one or both spouses need to find a new place to live. Finding a new home, in addition to all of the other challenges and changes you are facing, can be extremely intimidating. Most people are not ready to take on the investment of buying a new home, and for many, it is not financially an option during or immediately after a divorce.

If you are the spouse who chooses to or is forced to find a new place to live, consider renting something on a temporary basis. You can also share a home with a family member or friend. If both spouses choose to stay in the marital home during divorce proceedings, do your best to make the arrangement as civil as possible, especially if children are involved.

## 3 YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION

Divorce has a major impact on the financial situation of both spouses. As a matter of fact, financial issues are one of the most highly contested matters in a divorce. Whether you are working with your spouse to create a fair financial arrangement as each of you transitions into a new life or you are engaged in a struggle to protect your financial interest, it is important you have the support of financial experts. Your attorney can help you make important financial decisions and if necessary, you can work with real estate professionals and investment advisors to iron out an arrangement that is fair for everyone involved.



## 4 YOUR PRIVACY

Many people view divorce as a private family matter and rightly so. It can be extremely difficult if your spouse chooses to air dirty laundry or if your divorce becomes a drawn out legal battle. There are things you can do to avoid this and keep things private, but it will take some effort. Though you might not consider privacy a priority at the beginning, protecting your privacy and the privacy of your family will matter in the long run. Do what you can to work through the legal issues with your attorney and look to your closest friends and family members for emotional support.



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## 5 YOUR FUTURE

It will likely seem that the divorce process is never-ending while it is in motion, but rest assured, things are eventually resolved. As exhausting as the process seems, you will eventually be faced with a new life as a newly divorced person. You will be making decisions on your own and possibly still relating to your former spouse on a whole new level. Again, it is important to look out for the best interest of your children and make smart decisions that help you build a new life.

## 6 MEDIATION

If you hope to find a way to bring your marriage to an end without a bitter, extended legal battle you should strongly consider mediation. Mediation makes the divorce process easier for everyone involved, and gives you and your soon-to-be-former spouse control over the outcome of your divorce rather than placing these incredibly important decisions in the hands of a stranger. The judges who preside over the litigation do not know nearly as much about your life and goals as you do. The certainty of an agreement reached in mediation is often preferable than the proverbial roll of the dice in a courtroom.



If you would like to know more about mediation or you are ready to file for divorce, contact Daniel Clanton to schedule your free 30 minute initial case evaluation. Nearly 90% of his practice is devoted to family law and juvenile issues. He has personal experience with divorce and understands how custody battles affect children. His goal is to help couples communicate and creative solutions to unique challenges, and when that is not possible, he provides each of his clients with a personal approach to their concerns.

To learn more, contact Mr. Clanton at 817-916-8484, by email at [daniel@longbowlaw.com](mailto:daniel@longbowlaw.com) or by visiting his website at [www.clantonfamilylaw.com](http://www.clantonfamilylaw.com).

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