

# FOUR WAYS TO GET A DIVORCE

File a PETITION with the District Clerk & use any of the following approaches:  
(The waiting period in Texas is a minimum of 60 days from filing)

## INFORMAL AGREEMENT

*(Usually for those without children or property)* \*Exchange information \*Agree on asset division \*Take agreement to attorney to draft documents and file.

## EARLY MEDIATION

\*Employ Divorce Financial Analyst \*Submit financial data \*DFA creates settlement scenarios \*Mediate with team (can include attorney, DFA, and/or psychologist) \*Mental Health Professional helps with communication during mediation, or with career planning and/or parenting plan \*Mediated Settlement Agreement provides info for drafting of decree by second attorney who files documents with court after they are signed by parties.

Estimated time: 60 to 90 days

## LITIGATION

\*Prepare for and attend hearings as necessary for Protective Orders, Restraining Orders, Temporary Orders on child-related issues, use of house and car, spousal support, and payment of bills \*Prepare and complete "discovery" (exchange of information) as per Texas Rules of Civil Procedures: Request for documents, written interrogatories, depositions, subpoena records, request for disclosure, requests for admission, and sanctions \*Exchange and file inventories with court \*Negotiate issues and come to agreement or go to mediation \*If no agreement:

TRIAL starts 9-12 months after filing

## COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE

\*Sign Participation Agreement \*File Notice with court to avoid scheduling order \*Set agenda for meetings \*Attend joint meetings (with spouses, Attorneys, financial and mental health Professionals) \*Exchange information cooperatively \*Prepare joint inventory \*Negotiate issues and agreement \*Sometimes go to mediation \*4-6 meetings & 5 to 6 months on average.

If unsuccessful, must retain new attorneys

## OTHER DOCUMENTS

\*Qualified Domestic Relations Order \*Warranty Deed and Deed of Trust \*Withholding Order for Child Support

## ATTORNEYS PREPARE DOCUMENTS

Final Decree/Order is signed by judge and divorcing parties

## OTHER DOCUMENTS

\*Medical Child Support Order \*Agreement Incident to Divorce \*Other Transfer documents