

## Day #9: The Eleven Step Divorce Litigation Process, #1: Is Divorce Really the Answer?

Hi,

Thanks again for Subscribing. Today we begin the process of reviewing steps one must generally consider (*or endure*, given your perspective) on the road to a New Jersey divorce.

Some prospective clients walk into my office and are 100% certain their marriage is over. These prospective clients are ready to start the process of filing for divorce.

Others prospective clients are uncertain whether they are ready for divorce or not. What they really desire is to be provided with an overview of their rights and obligations should they choose to divorce.

Finally, there are those prospective clients who do not desire a divorce but their partner does. Emotionally divorce may be the toughest for people in this position. I recommend you take some time to

consider which of the above may reflect where you're at.

It's important to acknowledge just how wrapped up in emotion family law and divorce can be for both party's to a divorce. You might need to seek personal counseling. You may wish to try marriage counseling. As I indicated above, please reach out to me and I'll provide you with referral to local marriage counselors and/or therapists.

### **The Baseline Question: Is Divorce Really the Answer?**

Some rocky marriages truly are salvageable. As I am neither a psychologist nor a marriage therapist, it's not for me to say whether a prospective client's marriage is worth attempting to save or not. That is a *most personal* decision. But I often do recommend that parties consider (absent extenuating circumstances such as abuse) an attempt at marriage counseling prior to initiating a divorce.

If nothing else, this process may assist the parties understand each other and the reasons why divorce may be necessary.

## Conclusion

Before you commence a divorce proceeding, you should take some time to be sure that the chance of saving the marriage is slim or zero. Once you have settled that question, you can then begin with the divorce process full-steam ahead, and with a clear conscious as to your decisions and objectives. I understand that nobody relishes paying my fees. All the much less if they file and later decide to reconcile halfway through a protected divorce process.

If you think that can't happen—that you are not the Elizabeth Taylor/Richard Burton type, then you may be surprised to learn I've had multiple clients reconcile during a divorce (and once after a divorce): and on at least one occasion it was during the ugliest of divorces.

In summation, before you commence the New Jersey divorce process, you should mediate on whether or not divorce really the answer. If so, then they you should move on to the Second Step: choosing the right divorce attorney for you.

All the best,

Carl

Carl Taylor, Esq.  
Carl Taylor Law, LLC  
171 Main Street  
Flemington, NJ 08822  
908-237-3096  
[www.carltaylorlaw.com](http://www.carltaylorlaw.com)

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