

Day #1: The Basic Outline of a New Jersey Divorce

Hi,

I hope that you enjoyed my e-book on how to prepare for a New Jersey Divorce. Thanks again for subscribing. In the coming days I will further explain the process and provide additional tips to help *you* learn about Divorce in New Jersey.

As noted in my ebook, some clients are surprised to learn that a contested New Jersey divorce may take months (or even years) to settle. A divorce may also take years to be finalized should the case proceed to trial.

If you retain my firm, appropriate aggressive techniques to expedite favorable settlement negotiations will be deployed on your behalf to limit cost and aim at maximizing results. I will now briefly list the basic steps of a **New Jersey Divorce**.

(Remember, this list is by no means exhaustive. Please note that there are several Alternative Dispute Resolution processes available in New Jersey Divorce matters. These include mediation or collaborative law, which we will discuss further in the coming days).

Basic Contested Divorce Steps

Step 1: Determining whether a Divorce is the right decision for you. Have you tried to reconcile? Have you tried marriage counseling? Our office can provide you with the names of local marriage counselors or other therapists.

Step 2: Choosing an Attorney. (Or alternatively, choosing to represent yourself).

Step 3: Pleadings and Case Information Statement. (Complaint for divorce/ Answer/Counterclaim/etc).

Step 4: Case Management Conferences (CMC'S) (agreeing to discovery dates, possibly going before the Judge).

Step 5: Beginning Negotiations (It's never too early to start negotiating. Negotiations should continue throughout the process until the case is resolved or a trial is completed).

Step 6: Discovery.

Step 7: Continuing Negotiations/Drafting MSAProposal.

Step 8: Early Settlement Panel ("ESP").

Step 9: Court Ordered Economic Mediation.

Step 10: All-Day "Intensive" Settlement Conference ("ISC").

Step 11: Finalizing a DivorceSettlement–Marital Settlement Agreement. If not, then The Trial and the Judge's Opinion. (Note: Trials are rare in New Jersey Divorces, with approximately 1-2% of all cases going to trial. Please also note that a case can be settled at basically anytime. The steps above represent the progression assuming you have not settled).

After reading the 11 steps outlined above, you may be thinking to yourself: I don't know what half of it means! What is an Early Settlement Panel?

Well, don't worry: I'm going to explain each step further in the coming days, in bite-sized emails.

All the best,

Carl

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