

The
MEN'S BOOK
DIVORCE
In Pennsylvania

*The Dumbest Mistakes that Men Make
And
How to Avoid Them*



MHK ATTORNEYS

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*The Dumbest Mistakes That Men Make
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INCLUDING:

- **The 10 biggest mistakes men make in divorce.**
- **Get a game plan for divorce.**
- **42 financial records you need to secure.**
- **18 questions to consider before hiring your divorce lawyer.**
- **How to get the most custody of your kids.**
- **Overview of the divorce process.**
- **The grounds for divorce.**
- **17 factors used to determine alimony.**
- **13 factors used to determine equitable distribution**
- **Books for men.**

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WARNING AND DISCLAIMER

THIS BOOK IS **NOT** LEGAL ADVICE

The Pennsylvania State Bar requires that I inform you that this book is not legal advice. I am not your attorney until we enter into a written agreement that I will be your attorney. This book is for information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice. Every divorce case is different. Once your attorney fully understands your case, he or she should be able to give you quality legal advice to protect your interests. Receiving this book does not imply an attorney/client relationship between MHK Attorneys and the reader.

After reading this book, if you have any other unanswered questions, call my office for an appointment.

WHO WROTE THIS BOOK & WHY SHOULD I LISTEN TO THE AUTHOR?

Divorce is an emotionally driven business transaction. As a man you have to understand that the end result is like a business deal, but how you get there is through an emotional mine field which you must be prepared to navigate. Just like other decisions you have made in your life, you need to have a game plan from the beginning, even if the divorce has not started. You must be prepared for what may happen, what your wife might file, how you will respond and more importantly what steps you will take to be in charge of your new life.

If you are a man contemplating or confronting divorce, you must first gather knowledge and information about the divorce process. Help, guidance, and information to get you the best result are readily available for you. I want you to know:

1. The different and distinctive ways you can resolve your divorce.
2. Those truly effective professionals who can help you get what you want out of your divorce are in our community.
3. That understanding the laws that govern divorce and understanding the process of divorce will help you to get what you want.
4. How to handle financial issues starting RIGHT NOW.

My name is Connie J. Merwine. I have been a lawyer since 1988 and have handled divorce and custody cases since 1990. I started my law firm with my partners, Joseph P. Hanyon and Michael B. Kaspzyk in 1997 and have focused my attention on family law. I wrote this book for men because I see that men need one organized

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and comprehensive handbook to answer their most important questions quickly and give them the framework in which to conduct themselves during the divorce process to avoid the mistakes other men have made in similar situations. I also saw that although there were a lot of resources for women, there was a void in resources for men.

Prior to becoming an attorney, I obtained my Certified Public Accountant's license from the State of Pennsylvania. After becoming an attorney, I continued my education with a Master's degree in Liberal Arts and a Master's Degree in Taxation. I am able to provide unique guidance in divorce with my business knowledge and years of experience with other men in similar situations.

MY GOAL FOR YOU

You need to take control of your life and your divorce right now. You have already taken the first step in making your game plan. The most important thing for you to understand right up front is that you need to plan well ahead of time and get yourself organized. This book will move you forward with the information and plan you need to move through this process and make educated decisions. With that knowledge and information you will be better able to work more effectively with your lawyer. No one can make the ultimate decisions for you but my goal for you is that you have the knowledge of the divorce process so that you can make the best decisions for you and your family.

THE 10 BIGGEST MISTAKES MEN MAKE IN DIVORCE

As we get started, I want to share some BIG mistakes men have made when facing divorce that I have learned while helping men get divorced.

1. MOVING OUT-If you already did – MOVE BACK – this action will affect you not only financially but also as to custody of your children. You need to discuss all the ramifications of moving out with a knowledgeable attorney before you even think about moving out.

2. DATING IMMEDIATELY – why engage in this activity when you know that it will only incite raw emotions from your wife and possibly your children. Now is not the time to begin relationships when you have not completed your divorce. You will find that the knowledge that you are dating may put an end to any ongoing negotiations about property and custody. Your children may side with your wife if they feel that you have been unfaithful to their mother. Dating now will only cause you financial pain and emotional trauma. Many studies have shown that starting a new relationship while in the throes of a divorce is liable to create a mess for everyone involved including you and your new girlfriend. Finish one before you move on. If you do decide to start dating – telling your wife and children prior to the final divorce decree is definitely a **BAD IDEA**; keep it quiet.

3. BEING STUPID ON THE INTERNET – Take down your Facebook page, take down your My Space, your personals, don't put videos on YouTube, stop emailing others, stop it, stop it, stop it. Absolutely don't email or text your wife about anything – especially the divorce or custody. It will all come back to haunt you at the courthouse no matter how benign you think what you wrote is. Her lawyer will twist it until it hurts you. Anything can be misconstrued. Same thing goes for your girlfriend, (if you choose to not listen to MISTAKTE #2). Get her to remove all her social networking from the web. It just isn't worth it.

4. CHOOSING THE WRONG ATTORNEY OR NOT USING AN ATTORNEY – you need to make it a priority to find the right lawyer for YOU – one who is knowledgeable, fits with your personality and can commit to providing you with a game plan right now and answers to your questions as the matter moves ahead. GOING IT ALONE – is just not a good idea; divorce paperwork can be complicated and since the written agreement will control your life during and after the final divorce decree you need to make sure it says what you think it says. Just because you and your wife are on speaking terms now while she is trying to get what she thinks she deserves, does not mean that she will continue to be as friendly down the road when you both start moving on with your lives. Her emotions are not under your control – you need the right agreement to enforce should things go south.

5. INVOLVING YOUR CHILDREN IN YOUR DIVORCE– Do not make your children your confidantes during your divorce. Children should be allowed to remain children no matter how you feel or what you think. The court will dislike your involvement of your children in financial matters and your custody may be affected by your actions. Leave these matters to the adults.

6. FAILING TO PREPARE FOR YOUR DIVORCE – You need to right now –gather all documents such as tax returns, pension statements, bank accounts, credit card statements and anything that helps prove your financial situation. These documents will be difficult and expensive to obtain if your wife removes them and will put you behind in preparation with your attorney.

7. NOT BEING OPEN TO NEGOTIATION WITH YOUR WIFE. Neither you nor your attorney should dismiss any opening for possible resolution during the divorce at any stage, even if it is only a partial agreement on some of the issues you are facing. An amicable divorce is will be less costly financially and emotionally for all parties involved.

8. GETTING OUT OF CONTROL WITH YOUR EMOTIONS. Nothing is gained by shouting and swearing at your soon to be ex-wife. She will only react by being less agreeable to negotiations. Plus you can't take back the nasty things you say – how can that help you. Keep the big picture in focus – you are getting divorced and you need to get the best deal you can. **STAY CALM AT ALL TIMES.**

9. DON'T BE A PUSHOVER. On the other hand, you can't let your wife and her obnoxious lawyer push you around. If you cannot stand up to her, you need an attorney who definitely will be able to; not only to her but to her lawyer. Get what is yours and make sure you stand up for your rights from the beginning, especially regarding the children.

10. FIGHTING FOR THE HOUSE. It is just a house – move on – if she wants it and can afford it – let her have it – you won't win that one with the judge, especially if she has the children in her

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primary custody. Even if she doesn't want the house – are you sure you can financially afford the house after the divorce. Financially you will not be as secure – can you afford it and if you are just making it now, how will you afford it after the divorce – why would you want to be bound into living on the skinny right after a divorce? MOVE ON. Let her have it or agree to SELL IT.

*This book does not offer you a panacea to all of your problems, but it does provide you a wealth of information**

*For more information on divorce visit:
<http://www.mhkfamilylaw.com>
Or visit us on Facebook under MHK Attorneys