

## **How to Tell Your Spouse that You Want a Divorce**

Whether your marriage has been long or short, there is usually no easy way to say it's over.

Your spouse will most likely be hurt unless they are on the same page as you. Telling your spouse is easier for them (and you) than having your spouse discover an extramarital affair or being blindsided by the discovery of unflattering circumstances.

Improper ways to “announce” your decision to divorce include the following:

1. Draining accounts;
2. Moving out and leaving no money to pay the mortgage and monthly bills;
3. Closing bank accounts and credit cards;
4. Introducing your child to your new adult “friend;”
5. Posting pictures of yourself with your new “friend” on social media;
6. Engaging in a litany of steamy email or text exchanges.

### **Even if there isn't “someone else”, it's not easy to announce that you want a divorce.**

Unfortunately, spouses often suggest that the relationship will improve in time – but beware -- your spouse may use a “probation period” to do the following:

- gather evidence against you;
- hide money;
- defer promotions, bonuses or salary increases;
- max out credit cards;
- take sudden steps to improve their relationship with the kids such as:
  - use money to ingratiate themselves;
  - step up personal involvement (suddenly showing up at school open house, soccer games, etc.)
  - develop a sudden interest in homework and/or spending large amounts of time when they have not done so in the past.

### **If you are sure your spouse also wants a divorce, things should be easier:**

And understand, even though your spouse does not want a divorce, they may be able to handle the situation objectively and finalize the divorce in an amicable and uncontested manner.

We know this is possible because we have concluded thousands of “uncontested” divorces by helping clients calmly and fairly work out their settlement agreements.

Don't be discouraged! You may not experience any of the problems described here. But, in case you do, know that you are not alone and that these types of issues are commonly part of the challenge of a divorce.

Getting divorced is like running an obstacle course. If you know what to look for, it's easier to finish on your feet.