

Divorce involves the legal dissolution of a marriage. South Carolina has five grounds for obtaining a divorce. These are adultery, physical cruelty, habitual drunkenness, abandonment and one year separation, which is commonly referred to as a no-fault divorce. There are also residency, venue and jurisdictional requirements which dictate where the divorce should be filed.

Getting a divorce can be the most nerve wrecking and emotionally draining decision many people may have to make. In the event that a person is considering or going through a divorce, one of the most important people you will need is a divorce lawyer. A good divorce lawyer is extremely helpful in advising and assisting with the important financial and emotional decisions that come with divorce, such as alimony calculation, child custody and support, and equitable division of property. A divorce lawyer can advise you as to the family laws in South Carolina, so that you can make the best possible decisions for your family. A divorce lawyer can help you understand the court process and what to likely expect. It is important to feel confident and comfortable with your attorney.

When working with your lawyer, be honest and provide all the facts and details you can. The lawyer is there to help you and protect your confidences. A consultation fee is a small price to pay when you consider the lasting effects of failure of being properly represented during a family court proceeding. Be sure to discuss the lawyer's fees and court costs associated with your case. Most lawyers will charge by the hour for contested cases (where the issues are all disputed between the parties) and may charge a flat fee for uncontested cases (where some or all of the issues are agreed upon by the parties). Your comfort level and the lawyer's abilities should be your biggest consideration as family law issues such as divorce, custody, alimony and property division are not matters that come up often in a person's life. Once a fee is agreed upon, you will likely sign a retainer agreement or employment outlining your agreement, including the legal fees, services provided and policies of the lawyer and/or law firm.

The lawyer you chose should be more than willing to answer your questions and try to address your legal concerns regarding your case. However, you should understand that no attorney can answer your calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week and guarantee the outcome of your case. An experienced divorce lawyer is a valuable asset if you have or are considering a family law case. Once you have hired an attorney, do everything you can to assist the attorney and provide any necessary documents or information you may have. You should be an invested participant in the outcome of the case as your lawyer. The information you give should be confidential (ask if you are unsure) so be sure to answer all questions and provide all information requested, as you may not be aware of how important small details can be to your case.

If you are involved in or considering a family law related matter in South Carolina, call an experienced divorce attorney for information and advice specific to your case.