

The divorce process starts with the filing of a complaint . The divorce complaint will identify the parties, state grounds for divorce, and request the court to grant a divorce. Under Tennessee law certain statistical information must be included in the complaint.

## **Getting a Divorce in Tennessee**

Divorce is one of life's most painful experiences, and your emotions will be on a roller coaster during the process. As your divorce lawyer, Barnette Law Offices has the experience to understand the difficulties that arise and the ability to help you deal with those difficulties during this stressful time. Some of the various issues that may be involved in a divorce in any part of Tennessee include grounds for divorce, property division, alimony, child custody and child support. 1) Grounds for Divorce A divorce proceeding usually starts with grounds for the divorce. Twenty years ago, if you didn't prove grounds for divorce, you couldn't get divorced in Tennessee. Grounds for divorce are still litigated and are important to some people; specifically, in cases of adultery and abuse. The most common grounds for divorce is irreconcilable differences, which is Tennessee's version of a no-fault divorce, or misappropriate marital conduct. I

## **Child Custody**

Custody and Visitation Parenting Plan: The parenting plan is a document that divides custody, visitation, and decision making between the parents. One of the main items in the parenting plan is the residential schedule. The residential schedule defines who the children will reside with during the school year, vacations, holidays, special occasions, and any limitations when visiting with a parent. The plan can award holidays such as Thanksgiving to the father every even year and to the mother every odd year. The parents can even agree that some holidays will be given to one parent every year. Usually a plan will define what time a holiday begins and what time it ends. It is important to have a detailed plan to prevent problems with interpretation later. The next step in a plan is to assign decision making between the parents. Major decisions such as education or religious upbringing can be assigned to one parent or jointly.