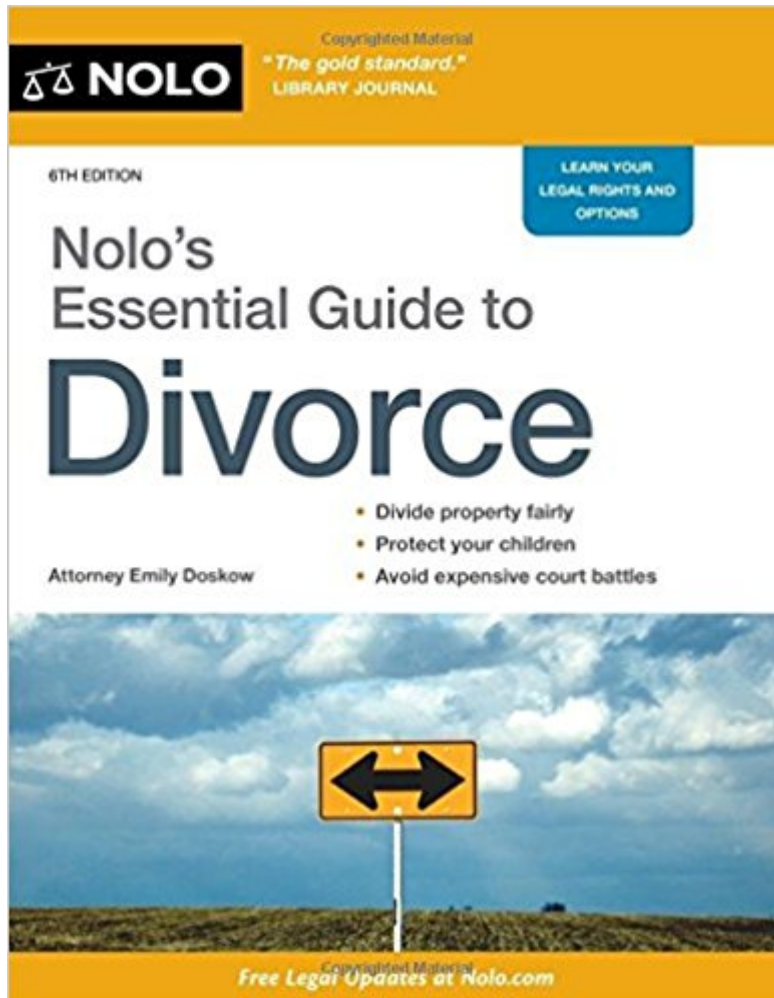


The book was found

Nolo's Essential Guide To Divorce



Synopsis

Divorce guidance you can count on Divorce is never easy for anyone in the family. But with the information and guidance in Nolo's Essential Guide to Divorce, you can make the process as simple, inexpensive, and conflict-free as possible. With compassion and expertise, family law attorney Emily Doskow explains how to make divorce less painful by helping you: understand the divorce process minimize day-to-day conflict with your spouse work with lawyers or mediators without breaking the bank avoid costly, exhausting court battles, and stay calm and make good decisions. You'll learn about your legal rights and options and how to tackle the tough issues, including: child support child custody alimony dividing property, including pensions and real estate, and drafting a marital settlement agreement. The 6th edition is completely updated with the latest state rules on divorce.

Book Information

Series: Nolo's Essential Guide to Divorce

Paperback: 528 pages

Publisher: NOLO; 6 edition (June 20, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1413322670

ISBN-13: 978-1413322675

Product Dimensions: 7 x 1.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #243,358 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in Books > Law > Family Law > Divorce & Separation #33 in Books > Law > Family Law > Domestic Relations #307 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Divorce

Customer Reviews

"Anyone faced with divorce needs to run, not walk, to Nolo's Essential Guide to

Divorce..."Bookwatch "In this well organized and easy to read book, readers can find succinct, practical answers to all the tough questions about divorce." Attorney Katherine E. Stoner, Author of Divorce Without Court "...the author can save you hundreds if not thousands of dollars in legal fees." Hillary Hyde, MSW, www.gooddivorcebooks.com "With approximately half of all marriages in American ending in divorce, this newly revised and expanded sixth edition of "Nolo's Essential Guide to Divorce" is a critically important addition to every community library collection, and vitally

necessary reading for any man or woman contemplating or entering a divorce who is seeking to make the legal process as simple, inexpensive, and conflict-free as possible. Drawing upon her years of experience and expertise, family law attorney Emily Doskow deftly explains how to make divorce less painful by helping the reader: understand the divorce process; minimize day-to-day conflict with your spouse; work with lawyers or mediators without breaking the bank; avoid costly, exhausting court battles; and to stay calm and make good decisions. Fully updated with the latest state rules on divorce, "Nolo's Essential Guide to Divorce" covers all legal rights and options and how to tackle the tough issues, including: child support; child custody; alimony; dividing property, including pensions and real estate; and drafting a marital settlement agreement. Of special note is how well "Nolo's Essential Guide to Divorce" is written, organized and presented, making it fully accessible for the non-specialist general reader. The Midwest Book Review, James A. Cox, Editor-in-Chief

Nolo's Essential Guide to Divorce is just that—the one guide someone going through divorce can't be without. It's thorough, easy-to-understand, and up to date. The focus on avoiding conflict will help readers divorce with as much dignity and as little difficulty as possible, and can help preserve long-term relations.

A great source of information regarding divorce matters.

I'm a big fan of NOLO books, but the title on this isn't overselling—it is an "essential guide" for anyone considering divorce. Divorce—whether you initiate it or your spouse does—is often one of the most stressful processes we ever will go through. It has an emotional, financial and even physical impact that will not be resolved in weeks or months—and sometimes will go on for years. It also is something that—unless you're a divorce lawyer—most people know next to nothing about until they find themselves involved in the process and under pressure to react and make decisions, often without the kind of information that will help avoid mistakes, particularly financial ones. This is an outstanding book. It guides you through the process and what you need to know about your choices at each step of the way. I liked that the first chapter made a point to emphasize the benefits of compromise and "taking the high road" whenever possible. This is good to keep in mind, especially when children are involved, and doesn't mean agreeing to an unfair settlement. The tone of the opener is just right—and the measured, reasonable language of the explanations and advice that follows would be very helpful in real life situations. The beginning looks at the different kinds of

separations and then the different kinds of divorces. Chapter 2 includes the "First Steps" after you make the decision--from breaking the news, to finances, to deciding who leaves the house and who stays in it (it can be a shock to realize that the movie version where the woman always stays home is not necessarily the way its going to be. Both parties have an equal claim in most cases. Right from the beginning, negotiations over that question can be difficult). There is a section on uncontested divorce that could save you a lot of money if you're able to do it. Chapter 4 takes it up a level to mediation--again, a money-saver if you can do it. As with every other chapter here, the process and paperwork and requirements are very clearly laid out. Chapter 5 is what the movies like to focus on--the contested divorce, where the couple is unable to work out their differences without hiring lawyers. Again, this process is clearly explained with great advice about choosing the right lawyer and how to judge a satisfactory settlement. Chapter 6 focuses on custody issues. Once you have children, even in divorce, you will be tied to your spouse forever through the children. This chapter helps to prepare for what that means, the specifics to consider, and how to keep the long range goals in mind, not just the short term ones. So important. Chapter 7 is about when there are problems with custody. I can't overemphasize the importance of reading and re-reading this section if there is any chance that any of the situations described will affect you and your children. Chapter 8 covers Child Support. Again, this is such a crucial issue and one that most of us don't understand. This shows your choices in determining this, and how, if you use the court, the actual amount and duration of support is determined. (Also, something many never think of--how child support affects taxes, both for the recipient and the one who pays it.) Other chapters talk about property division, including finances, that are at the center of most divorce disputes. This includes dividing retirement benefits which you don't want to overlook, even though it may be 30 years in the future. Chapter 11 deals with spousal support--how it is calculated and taxed--and issues regarding medical benefits. The final chapters deal with special situations: military divorces (Ch 12), preparing paperwork (Ch 13), tough situations--abuse, bankruptcy, etc. (Ch 14), what to do after the divorce (Ch 15) and more resources (Ch 16). Sprinkled throughout are some helpful graphics, including samples of forms you may need to complete and a state-by-state chart showing "Grounds for Divorce" I wish I'd had this when faced with this situation--what a help it would have been. If you're even considering divorce, I'd recommend getting it and reading it. It may make you decide to go forward--or it may make you reconsider. A great book..

This is a really good book if divorce is in your future. It describes all of the issues that you are going to have to consider and deal with when going through a divorce. Some examples are: (1) how to

break the news to your spouse and kids, (2) inventorying assets, (3) types of divorces, (4) potential costs of the different types of divorces, (5) child support and alimony, (6) distribution of assets, (7) relationships with former spouse's family, (8) parenting agreements, (9) tax issues, (10) going to trial vs. settlement, (11) health insurance, (12) retirement assets, (13) hiding assets, (14) protecting your credit, (15) dealing with changed circumstances after the divorce, etc. Considering the cost of divorce, this book could easily save you thousands of dollars and will easily pay for itself many times over, even to the casual reader. At a minimum, you will know what you are about to get into and that provides a lot of comfort and confidence. It also may convince you to not get divorced. Most importantly, an over-arching theme of the book is how to get through divorce while staying sane, being a good person, and minimizing the damage to relationships (kids, friends, in-laws, and even the person you once loved). The book is well-written and understandable, even to non-lawyers or lawyers who practice in other areas. While I am an attorney, I don't practice divorce law but now consider this book to be an essential resource for the occasional questions that I get from friends who are divorcing. I highly recommend this book. People really ought to spend a few minutes flipping through it BEFORE they get married. No one ever says they had a "good divorce," but this book will certainly help make it "less bad."

I'm going to approach my review of this book from a different angle (from that of counseling (& counselor) rather than that of someone who want want to use this book because (s)he might be contemplating divorce). One of the more surprising things I learned during my graduate counseling internship (though, in retrospect, I probably should not have been so surprised, if at all) was the high percentage of clients who were involved in counseling either directly or indirectly as a result of divorce (directly, in that papers had been served on them; indirectly, in that divorce came up in some form or fashion even if it wasn't the "presenting" concern). I regret to say that I was absolutely unprepared for this. "Unprepared" in the sense that a) I knew very little about the process of divorce and b) what I knew was almost entirely anecdotal. Further, I never realized how complex a subject "divorce" is (even "no-fault divorce") prior to, during, and after. Enter this wonderful book by Ms. Dostow. The information she provides has added context to some of the client sessions I participated in. I now have a better understanding of the legal, social, and economic aspects of divorce and as a result know I can better serve future clients in this area. This book will remain close at hand as I enter my residency (and beyond). One final comment. I appreciate Ms. Dostow's up-front advice: this book is meant as a guide, not legal advice. No book can take the place of a qualified attorney licensed to practice in the area the prospective reader lives. To drive this point

home I can say that even though the book has a 2016 printing date some of the info for Maryland has already changed (October 2015 brought in some changes). So yes, while it may be a great guide to the process it is no substitute for up-to-date, area-specific legal advice.5 enthusiastic stars. A keeper for my practice's library and one that I'm sure will be kept within arm's reach.

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