



## How to Control the Cost of Divorce

### The Nature of Divorce:

1. Children
2. Financial Issues

### The Nature of the Process:

1. Typically parties fail to consider a budget for divorce, unlike planning for a wedding or funeral
2. Costs may be managed to some extent by the client – but not totally
3. Cost management *should not* be the motivating factor for how parties choose to divorce – risks are short sightedness with negative long term consequences.
4. Property division is a one shot deal only

### The Contributing Factors to the Cost of Divorce:

1. Clients' behaviors
2. The nature of the case itself – financial complexities, discovery, valuations, children related issues
3. The necessity of having to bring in other professional experts: to value a business, license, earning capacity, assets, and projections for future lifestyle.
4. Each legal professional and allied professional charges their own hourly rates and retainers – no consistency but what the market will bear based on expertise and experience.
5. Clients may try one legal avenue only to drop out and begin fresh with new retainers and new bills with different and new legal representation
6. Legal professional may fire their own clients. Clients bear the costs of hiring afresh.
7. Time, court calendars, availability of all parties to contribute to length and cost of process (whichever one is selected).