



**10 REASONS WHY BEING AN IDEAL
CLIENT SAVES YOU MONEY.
PAY ATTENTION.**





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01

Be aware that lawyers are your battle buddies—but read the Legal Services Agreement so you have situational awareness and understanding of the costs involved in divorce. The Legal Services Agreement is the contract between you and the lawyer. It sets out the rules of engagement about your legal services—including when you could get fired as a client (yes, lawyers can do that).



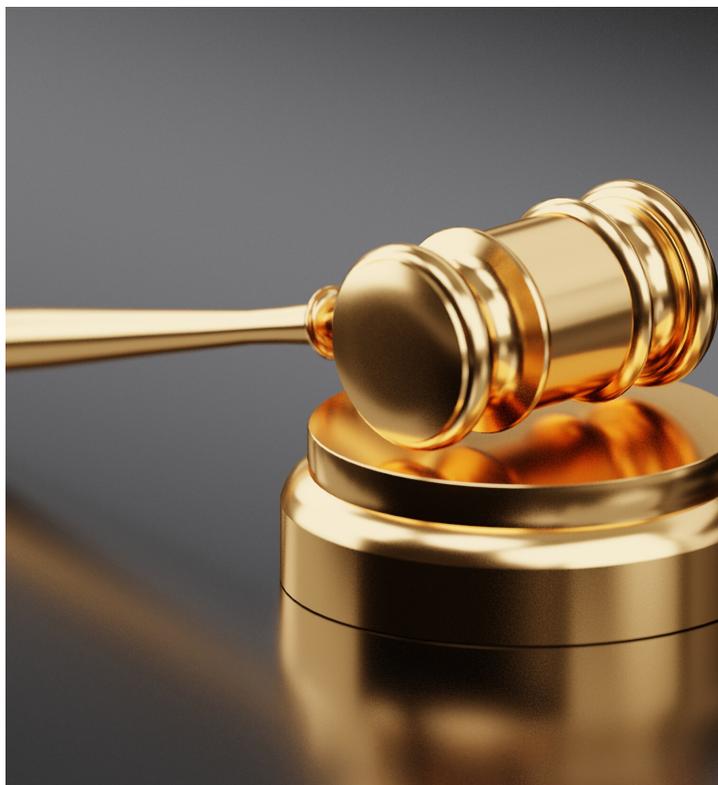
02

Pay the retainer so there is no delay in acting for you. Lawyers don't work for free and if you don't pay the retainer, it can be seen as a bad omen by the lawyer that you don't intend to pay for their work. Not only that, but don't come screaming into the office with tight deadlines or "urgent" demands when you haven't bothered to pay the retainer.



03

Plan to keep the money coming when things turn from a minor skirmish to a full-on battle. The #1 reason your case falters and ends up costing more is that you stop paying your lawyer.





04

Be prepared to do homework—and get it done on time. We can't help you if you don't help yourself. We ask for what we need to prepare the strategy for your best interests. No ammo means we are out of the fight.



05

Every time you contact the lawyer's office, or they contact you, it costs you money. Period. Your civvie lawyer is not JAG where legal advice is free (Officer cadre—are you listening?). If you need mental health support, lawyers are expensive therapists. Find support—you'll need it but leave the legal advice to your lawyer.





06

If your marriage was one battle after battle—your divorce will be too. Prepare for it. Look you can't mistake fighting for "passion", okay? You fought with each other for years and this old pattern continues.



07

Know the level of conflict is in your hands—to a point. Tactics from your training don't translate into the separation battle space. Engage and destroy the enemy or hide under the camouflage are really bad ideas, especially if you have kids. Unpleasant sh*t happens when you escalate or try to avoid the situation.





08

When your ex declares scorched earth as the ROE, be prepared that it will cost you and you can't go into hiding on your lawyer. Avoiding your lawyer only hurts your position and gets you fired by your lawyer leaving you wide open to incoming rounds where you may not be able to deflect or return fire. Lawyers aren't cheap but they know the legal battlefield to get things done or to recognize what the other side is up to.



09

Sometimes the long-term strategy means choosing which hill to die on in the short-term.

- What do you want most?
- Time with your kids?
- Saving your pension?
- Being able to keep your military career?
- Getting the whole things over with to move on with a new life?

Knowing your priorities clears the distractions your ex will throw at you.





10

Even if you met and married in a few months, your divorce will take much longer. Hunker down for a long slog and then be pleasantly surprised if your divorce lasts as long as the first Gulf War instead of as long as Afghanistan.

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