

Streamline Divorce FAQs



1. **Can we use one attorney to handle the entire divorce for both of us?**

ANSWER: No. Ethically, an attorney can only represent one spouse – not both. However, we have a Streamline Divorce process which enables the parties to “write up” their own agreement and, if that process is suitable for your situation, we can affordably handle the court process.

2. **What is the least expensive process?**

ANSWER: Unless you attempt to handle the case completely without attorneys, the Streamline Divorce process is the least expensive. Our office is retained by one spouse, to “write up” all court orders and paperwork and handle the court process *based on an agreement set forth in Streamline form set, which both spouses fill out and sign* before the attorney’s drafting begins.

3. **Is Streamline Divorce a type of Mediation?**

ANSWER. No. With a Streamline Divorce, the parties have no “disputes,” so they do not need the services of a mediator. (*Mediation is a good option if the spouses do have disagreements.*)

4. **What is a “Streamline Divorce”?**

ANSWER: When we refer to a “Streamline Divorce” (with flat fees and no extra charges), we refer to a divorce case in a Michigan county in which we practice and in which:

- A. **Fill Out Form Without Attorney Advice or Negotiation** - The parties reach an agreement without Attorney assistance and fill out a Streamline Divorce form set to reflect their agreement;
- B. **No Division or Retirements, Business or Complicated Issues** - The parties’ agreement does not involve dividing retirement accounts, there are no marital businesses, no complicating real estate or property issues;
- C. **No custody or parent time issues** – if there are minor children, the parties can agree on the parenting time schedule and responsibilities on their own.
- D. **No child support issue or dispute**
- E. **No spousal support issue or dispute.**

***Usually, more complicated issues require additional charges.**

5. **What services does your office provide in a Streamline Divorce?**

ANSWER: In a Streamline Divorce case, our office provides services in three steps or phases:

- A. **Retainer & Form Phase** - Furnish the Streamline Divorce forms to client, run spousal support guidelines calculation when requested and review the completed form before client signs it. (*The client can request hourly advice at any time while completing the forms.*)
- B. **Drafting Phase (Orders and Court Documents)** –Couling Law drafts the initial documents needed to file the case and the court orders and forms which reflect the agreement reached by the parties as they detailed in writing in the Streamline forms.
- C. **Court Representation Phase** – Process and file paperwork with court; arrange service on the non-client spouse; arrange Friend of the Court review (where required); accompany client to court date; serve final documents on other party.