

The Case for a “Good Divorce”

By Gemma Allen

If you cannot stay happily married, then having a “good divorce” is the next best thing. An amicable divorce is a worthy goal because how you divorce will impact the rest of your life. If children are involved, the good divorce is an even holier grail. What makes divorce so complex is that the legal process and the psychological pain are playing out simultaneously. If you want your divorce to come to a satisfying conclusion with cooperation and fairness, here are some tips.

Begin the divorce with a vision of its ending. Try to tailor your behavior to the idealized goal. When you look back at this life-altering event, you want to feel that you handled it well.

Acknowledge what the legal system can and cannot accomplish. It will help you avoid wasting time, money, and angst on unreachable goals.

Do your financial homework. Assemble the financial facts and figures related to the market values of your assets, the liens and loans outstanding, account balances, and the upcoming obligations and needs of the children, along with all sources of income.

Choose a good lawyer. Your legal and financial rights and your children’s futures are at stake. A good lawyer will tell you the truth about options and likely outcomes. Questionable lawyers will keep your anger fueled.

Make no mistake: When you commit to a “good divorce,” you are signing on for a difficult journey. Bringing about a “good divorce” can take even more maturity than a good marriage, but you will be glad you chose that option. ■



Gemma Allen is an experienced divorce attorney dedicated to providing the best results for families. Learn more at laddenallen.com.