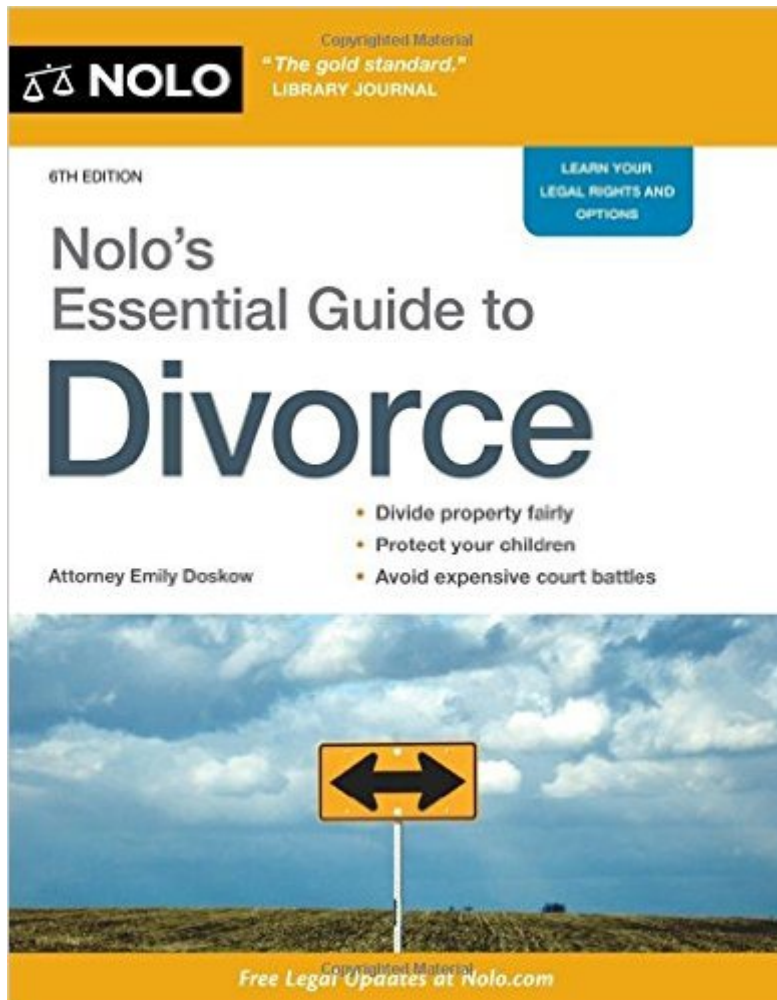


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# Nolo's Essential Guide To Divorce



## 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

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## Customer Reviews

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).

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).

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