



Questions & Answers

Insight on commonly encountered legal matters

Family Law: Divorce vs. Dissolution

11 Commonly Asked Q&As



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Q 1: What is the difference between divorce and dissolution?

In Ohio, **divorce** is used when spouses do not agree on one or more issues. **Dissolution** is used when both spouses fully agree on all terms before filing with the court.



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Q 2: Is dissolution the same as an uncontested divorce in Ohio?

Yes. In Ohio, dissolution is essentially an uncontested divorce where both spouses file jointly and submit a complete separation agreement.



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Q 3: Is dissolution faster than divorce?

Usually. Because the terms are already agreed upon, dissolutions often move through the court more quickly than contested divorces.



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Q 4: Is dissolution less expensive than divorce?

Often, yes. Dissolution typically involves fewer court appearances and less attorney involvement, which can lower overall legal costs.



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Q 5: Do both spouses have to agree to a dissolution?

Yes. Full agreement is required on terms relating to property, debt, support and parenting issues (if applicable). If agreement on all matters cannot be achieved, the case may proceed as a divorce.



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Q 6: What must be agreed on for a dissolution?

Spouses must agree on:

- Division of assets and debts
- Spousal support, if any
- Child custody, parenting time and child support (if applicable)



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Q 7: Do you need a lawyer for a dissolution in Ohio?

A lawyer is not required, but legal guidance is often recommended to ensure the agreement complies with Ohio law and protects each party's rights.



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Q 8: Is dissolution a good option if children are involved?

Yes, if both parents agree on custody, parenting time and support arrangements.



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Q 9: Can a dissolution turn into a divorce in Ohio?

Yes. If spouses are unable to maintain agreement, this dissolution can be dismissed and a divorce is filed instead.



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Q 10: Does a judge still review a dissolution in Ohio?

Yes. An Ohio judge must review and approve the agreement and will grant the dissolution only if it meets legal requirements and protects the best interests of any children.



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Q11: How long does a dissolution take in Ohio?

Most dissolutions in Ohio are finalized within 30 to 90 days after filing. The exact timeline depends on the court's schedule and whether all required documents are properly completed.



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