

Minnesota Community Resources can be found by clicking on the following links:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/index.html>

Child Support Services

<https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/services/child-support/programs-services/payments.jsp>

Child Custody & Parenting Time

<https://www.mncourts.gov/Help-Topics/Child-Custody.aspx>

Paternity:

<http://www.mncourts.gov/Help-Topics/Paternity.aspx>

Dissolution:

<http://www.mncourts.gov/Help-Topics/Divorce.aspx>

Find an attorney

<https://www.mncourts.gov/Help-Topics/Find-a-Lawyer.aspx>

Abuse Help

<https://www.vfmn.org/>

Parenting Advice

<https://yourmedicalinfo.net/category/parenting-advice/>

Role of an Attorney
Explaining Grounds for Divorce

Minnesota is considered a “no fault” state. This means that you do not need the consent of your spouse to obtain a divorce, nor are the reasons why you want a divorce considered in

granting the divorce. In Minnesota, the courts can enter a divorce decree upon showing that:

- One of the parties has lived in the state for 180 days prior to the commencement of the proceedings
- The marriage is irretrievably broken

Providing Objective Advice

While divorce is an emotional process, an attorney will make it less so. He or she can talk to you about issues that will affect support and custody judgements. Additionally, a divorce lawyer can serve as the go-between for you and your spouse as to avoid personal contact.

Accounting for Marital Assets

In order to properly distribute the marital estate, an attorney will ensure that all parties disclose marital assets. In marriages where one spouse has handled the money, the other spouse may not be aware of the couple's debts and assets. An attorney will help collect records and locate assets and liabilities so that the divorce settlement properly addresses all financial aspects of the marriage.

Determining Spousal Support and Other Benefits

An attorney will help assess whether a spouse may be entitled to spousal support or if they may be required to pay it. Spousal support may be ordered when spouses have very different incomes or when one spouse sacrificed his or her career to advance the other spouse's. Additionally, a spouse may be entitled to a portion of the business interest that the other spouse runs. Some spouses may be entitled to a portion of their spouse's pension or Social Security income. (This topic will be further discussed in Chapter 3).

Preparation with Divorce Papers

An attorney will assist clients with preparing formal papers that must be served upon the other party and submitted to the court in order to start the divorce process. They will also be involved with responding to the other spouse's petition for divorce.

Negotiating a Settlement

An attorney can help their client negotiate a divorce settlement which can save their client time and money rather than having a judge decide at a contested trial.

