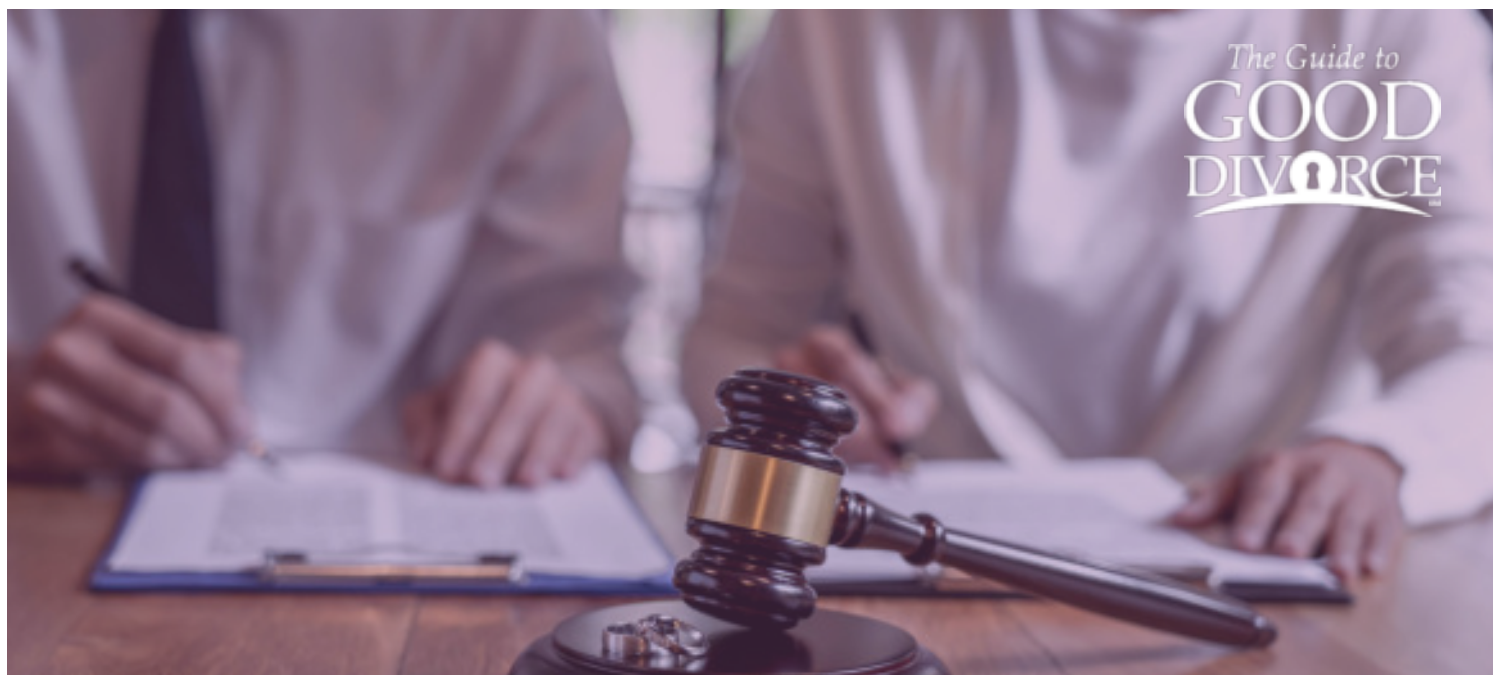


Your Attorney Isn't Your New Boyfriend



By Molly Ward
CFP®, CDFA®

You have just hired the perfect divorce attorney and you feel some relief. He gets you. He wants to fight for you, and you believe in him. For the purposes of this article, we will pretend he is a man. You may even be thinking he is your Knight in Shining Armor. He can circle the wagons and save the train. He can leap from tall buildings and possibly secure your future.

But,
He is not your new boyfriend.
He is not your therapist.
He is not your financial advisor.
He is not in charge of your divorce

YOU are in charge of these things:

- Your divorce
- Being organized
- Writing a timeline of relevant marriage information (see article [“A Love Story with a Twist”](#))
- Knowing your numbers -- assets, liabilities, incomes, and expenses
- Your emotions and reactions
- Your physical health
- Your divorce wish list ([see article here](#))
- Your divorce strategy (collaborative, mediation, or a more aggressive path)

Your attorney is in charge of these things:

- Adhering to legal procedures and rules of divorce (Rules, shmules -- that's his job!)
- Counseling you on the legalities of divorce
- Communicating with your spouse's attorney
- Handle the logistics and timeline of your case, meeting court deadlines
- Giving you realistic feedback on your preferred strategy for your divorce

When you handle your business in an organized and confident way, you keep more money in your bank account. In addition, it allows the attorney to do a better job. Your voice is necessary.

Think of yourself as the five-star general of your divorce. You have important officers on your side. Your attorney is one of those officers. And, hopefully a CDFAs and a counselor as well are in your camp.

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