

Divorce

Divorce is a process where a [marriage](#) is ended in the eyes of the [law](#); after a couple divorces, they are no longer married. When a divorce happens, the couple must do many things, like decide [who gets to care for the child](#) or who owns certain [things](#).

There are many reasons why a couple may divorce one another. One of the married people may have [had sex with someone who wasn't their partner](#), the two married people don't like each other, or there is [domestic violence](#) between the married people.

Divorce is different from [annulment](#). In annulment, the couple is said to not have been married in the eyes of the law. In divorce, the couple was married, but isn't anymore.

Methods of divorce

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The laws are different in every country, but usually there are two ways reasons for a divorce in law: because of a bad act by one person and divorce with no bad act. In some countries it is important who did the bad act. This may have an effect on decisions about the money and property of the two people. Normally a divorce comes in force some time after the decision of approval.

Divorce with no bad doing

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Under this system, divorce is possible with no argument about a bad act by one of the married people. In some countries it is enough to make a statement that the relation is broken and it is not possible for it to be fixed. This is true in the [United States](#) for example. It is not necessary to say that one of the married people was responsible. The system lets two married people make a request together or only one.

Divorce with facts in support of a bad deed by one person

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In most systems of law it is necessary to give facts about a bad act by one married person to get a divorce. The person may give arguments against the decision. Examples of this sort of reason for a divorce are:

- One person did violent or unsafe acts against the other person or their sons or daughters
- [addiction](#) (where the person is dependent on a substance)

- crimes or support for crimes by other people
- the other person was untrue
- the other person got married a second time
- the other person went far from the family with no reason

Different ways of getting a divorce

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Quick divorce

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In some systems it is possible to get a quick divorce with simple rules. The important questions then are:

- Were they married for a short time? (normally less than 5 years)
- Do they have sons or daughters? If yes, is there an agreement about who is responsible for them?
- Do the people have a house or land?
- Does their common property have a low value in money?
- Does the separate property of the two persons have a low value?

Divorce with no argument

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About 95% of divorces in the United States are without argument because the two people are able to come to an agreement about the property, their sons and daughters, and other questions. The agreement may be made with the help of [lawyers](#) (experts on laws).

In some countries, there are special systems which give help to people. For example, they are able to go a hearing with a judge but no lawyers. Lawyers may have discussions with the people to make an agreement. In some systems, an expert with experience of divorces makes decisions in place of a judge. In [Russia](#) two people are able to get a divorce in the office where the government keeps records of births marriages and deaths. One person or the two married persons make the request and it will be given if:

- they are in agreement about the divorce; and
- they do not have sons or daughters less than 18 years old.

Then, the office will give knowledge of the request to the other person. After this time, the other person has one month to make an argument in writing against the request. Then the office will put a stop to the request.

Impacts

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A divorce can be very [stressful](#); some people become [depressed](#) or sad after a divorce. If there are children, the children may also feel sad when the parents are divorced. However, there are many resources that can help people who are divorcing, such as [therapists](#), counselors, books, and DVDs.

The biggest impact is always felt the children who are often forced to grow up with only one parent. This reaches its climax when the one parent taking care of the child is forced to work all day and doesn't have time for the child. Children who have broken homes are twice as likely to drop out of high school [dropout](#). If the parents remarry, the children of their new husband or wife are their [stepchildren](#). "Step-" can be put before any relation to show it is from another marriage. If there are children in the new marriage, children from a former marriage are called [half-brothers](#) or [half-sisters](#), since they are "[half](#)" related.

People who are trapped in abusive relationships might divorce as a way of help.

Divorce in different cultures

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The law of divorce is different in every country. Only two countries do not allow divorce, the [Philippines](#) and the [Vatican](#). This is because the Philippines is majority [Roman Catholic](#) and mainly [socially conservative](#) and the Vatican is a Roman Catholic [theocracy](#) and the Roman Catholic teaching forbids divorce. In the Philippines, only [Muslims](#), are allowed to divorce, and the Vatican is the only country with no law of divorce. In the Philippines and the Vatican, married people are not able to end their relation, but it is possible for them to say they were [never married](#) for example, because of an error. Most religions do not agree with the couples divorcing. Divorce in Australia follows the no-fault principle, which was established by the Family Law Act 1975. This means that the court does not need to know the reason for the divorce, just that the marriage has broken down irretrievably.^[1]

Related pages

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- [Child custody](#)
- [Disengagement](#)

References

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1. [↑] ["Divorce in Australia - The 'no fault' principle"](#). 6 November 2020.

Other websites

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The [Simple English Wiktionary](#) has a [definition](#) for: ***divorce***.

- [Armchair Advice - Divorce Information Archived](#) 2006-12-19 at the [Wayback Machine](#) UK specific information & advice on divorce.

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