



The Cost of Divorce

1. Hourly lawyer fees in the U.S. range from \$100.00 to \$250.00+. This means a divorce could (and often does) end-up costing thousands of dollars by the time it's all over.
2. The cost to force a spouse to comply with the divorce agreement often adds tens-of-thousands of dollars to the bill.
3. A custody fight can run \$20,000+ *per spouse*. The thing with custody cases is that no matter how reasonable one side is, how much you give up to stay out of court, the other side can always demand more until you have to choose between fighting and never seeing your kids. Also, after the settlement or the court decision, either of you can come back to court the following year to try the case all over again. You may be fighting about visitation arrangements until the children are grown.
4. If the divorce agreement calls for a 50-50 split, you automatically lose 50% of the total value. This means you might lose thousands (possibly tens-of-thousands) of dollars as the value of your possessions are split in half.
5. Personal effects like furniture, clothes, knick knacks, collectibles and cars are usually evaluated on a "garage sale" basis, so you and your spouse can agree who gets what.
6. If you own or are paying on a mortgage; depending on who gets to keep the house, the following will have to be included into the cost equation of divorce:
 - Mortgage and interest payments
 - Property and misc. taxes (i.e. school, water, etc.)
 - Insurance
 - Maintenance costs
7. Add children's expenses: tuition, medical and health bills, recreational activities, baby sitters, special care (if a counselor is hired to help the children through the divorce), vacations and other expenses.
8. Keep in mind there is more at stake than just the financial costs in a divorce: plan on sleepless nights, missed days of work, stress beyond belief, and lots of emotional pain and anguish; especially if you have children. How will holidays be arranged? Be prepared to spend at least a few special occasions without the kids!
9. Unless you plan on getting some serious counseling, odds are you're going to carry many of these same issues into future relationships. Not sure about that? Consider the fact that 60 percent of second-time marriages and 73 percent of third time marriages end in divorce. Still think divorce could not happen to you *again*?
10. What about the fact that married people live longer than those who are single?

Your best bet? **BOTH OF YOU** commit to working out the issues in counseling. You really can overcome your problems and go on to have a successful and rewarding marriage! Nothing ventured, nothing gained!

Source: <http://www.professorshouse.com/family/relationships/cost-of-divorce.aspx>