

# DIVORCE WORDS

**Agreement:** A formal written understanding between parents concerning their respective rights, their duties to each other and the responsibilities to their children.

**Attorney:** A person hired to legally represent a parent during the divorce.

**Child-Custody Determination:** What the judge says will be the legal decision from the court providing for the custody or visitation with respect to a child.

**Child Support:** Money paid by one parent to another for a child's expenses after separation and/or divorce.

**Contempt:** The willful disobedience and disrespect of a court order of the judge's authority.

**County Clerk's Office:** The office where legal paperwork is filed and dates for court proceedings are obtained.

**Court of Law:** A formal legal meeting in which evidence about the divorce disagreements, etc., is presented to a judge.

**Custody:** The legal right to make major decisions affecting a child under the age of 18. There are different kinds of Custody Agreements that parents decide based on the needs of the children.

**Custodial Parent:** the parent who is given physical and/or legal custody of a child by court order.

**Disagreement:** When two people have different opinions.

**Divorce:** The legal separation between a husband and wife, the marriage is over. Parent's divorce each other but they do not divorce their children.

**Family Investigator:** The court may appoint a Child and Family Investigators (CFIs) in cases involving parental responsibilities, including parenting time and decision-making.

**Judge:** A public official appointed to decide cases in a court of law.

**Lawyer:** A person hired to legally represent a parent during the divorce.

**Marriage:** A legal promise that two people make to live their lives together.

**Mediation:** A neutral person called a "mediator" helps the parents try to reach a mutually-acceptable resolution of the dispute or problem they are having. The mediator does not decide the case, but helps the parents communicate better.

**Settlement Agreement:** A formal, voluntary, written agreement on all of the issues surrounding divorce. It must be formally signed and acknowledged.

**Spouse:** Husband or wife.

**Subpoena:** A legal order requiring a person's attendance at a particular time and place to testify as a witness or to provide certain documents that are requested.

**Visitation:** The right of a non-custodial parent to be with a child.

