

Online Divorce Offers a New Option

Could this fast, low-cost alternative be right for you?

By [Brette Sember](#) | June 24, 2025 | [Family and Relationships](#)

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So much of life is online at this point. We pay bills, do banking, renew passports, work, connect with friends, have meetings, shop, file taxes and do just about everything else online. What about getting a divorce?



If you handle your own online divorce, you are responsible for not only obtaining, completing and filing all necessary forms, but are also for understanding the law and your rights. | Credit: Getty

In a traditional divorce, you and your spouse each hire lawyers who try to negotiate a settlement. If that fails, you go to court and have a trial where the judge makes all the decisions in your case, including spousal support and property division. If you have minor children together, [custody](#) and child support are also decided. This process takes months, sometimes years, and is all about conflict.

Interest in online divorce is growing rapidly.

All states now have online divorce forms and a process for filing a divorce through an online portal. However, most people find that the forms and the requirements are complex and hard to understand. If you make a mistake, you could end up with less than you are entitled to, or the court

could reject your forms and require you to refile.

This has spurred the growth of online divorce companies like [Divorce.com](#), [HelloDivorce](#), [3StepDivorce](#), [CompleteCase](#) and others handle the process for you.

Interest in online divorce is growing rapidly, with 2024 seeing [47 million online searches for "online divorce"](#), an increase of 7%.

Online Divorce Process

If you handle your own online divorce, you are responsible for not only obtaining, completing and filing all necessary forms, but are also for understanding the law and your rights.

An online divorce service handles that for you, and the process goes like this:

- You and your spouse reach an agreement on everything involved in the divorce.
- You complete an online questionnaire that gathers all your information.
- Software determines if you are eligible for divorce and meet all the requirements.
- The service completes your state-specific divorce paperwork.
- The company then files the paperwork with your home court.
- In some states, the online service will legally serve your spouse as well.
- If you and your spouse agree on all the decisions in the dissolution, the divorce is finalized by your state court.
- Some localities require you to make a quick court appearance to verify that you agree.



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Navigating the financial and emotional consequences can initially take a toll

Online divorce providers can complete and file your paperwork in a matter of days. In some states, there is a [mandatory waiting period](#) between the filing of documents and the final decree of divorce. Waiting periods can range from a month to a year, depending on the reason for the divorce.

Comparing Costs

[Nolo.com](#) did a nationwide study on the cost of divorce and found that the average cost of a divorce lawyer is \$11,300.

If you file for divorce online, on your own, in your home state, you pay only the state filing fees, which usually are a few hundred dollars.

Most online divorce services cost between \$400 and \$1,000, plus state filing fees, but costs can go up to \$4,000, depending on whether you opt to buy add-on services.

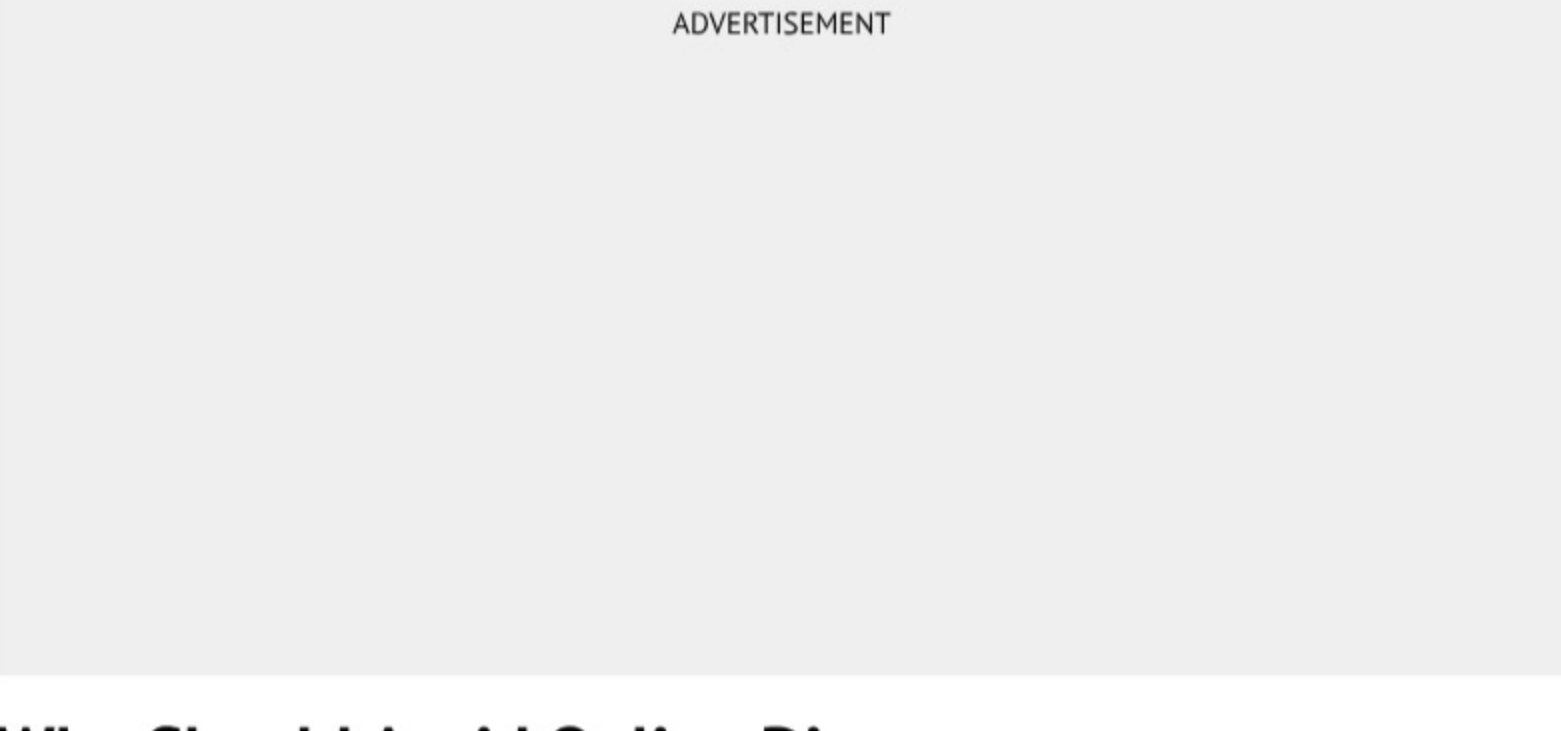
Other Benefits of Online Divorce

In addition to the huge cost savings, there are other reasons that online divorce is becoming popular:

- You don't have to take time off work to meet lawyers or appear in court.
- You complete the paperwork at home.
- Some online divorce providers offer affordable mediation programs to help couples reach an agreement if they can't do so themselves.
- The focus is on consensus and agreement, not discord.
- Your paperwork can be completed and filed in days.

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Who Should Avoid Online Divorce

Online divorce is not for everyone, and in the following situations, it can be a bad idea:

- There is domestic violence or a power imbalance in your relationship, and you don't feel able to negotiate freely.
- You and your spouse do not agree about how to resolve all the issues in your divorce.
- You have legal questions about what you are entitled to or could get in the divorce.
- You and your spouse own a business together, will be splitting a retirement account in the divorce, or have other complex financial matters at stake.

How to Choose an Online Provider

If you want the benefits of an online divorce but don't feel comfortable filing the paperwork yourself, an online divorce provider might be a good choice. Here are the things to look for:

- Uses up-to-date, state-specific forms and adds your information.
- Allows you to edit and change information you enter before submitting.
- The service checks your forms for accuracy.
- You can instantly download your forms.
- There are no hidden fees, such as for mailing documents to you.
- There is a package that fits your needs (such as serving your spouse, giving mediation options, filing in papers for you, obtaining your spouse's signature or providing a lawyer to answer questions).
- The company explains legal terminology, so you understand the choices you are making.
- Your information is secure.
- It has a user-friendly platform that allows you to save your work as you go and will save your documents if you are not ready to file yet.
- In-person customer service is included in the price.
- It has good reviews on sites like [TrustPilot](#).

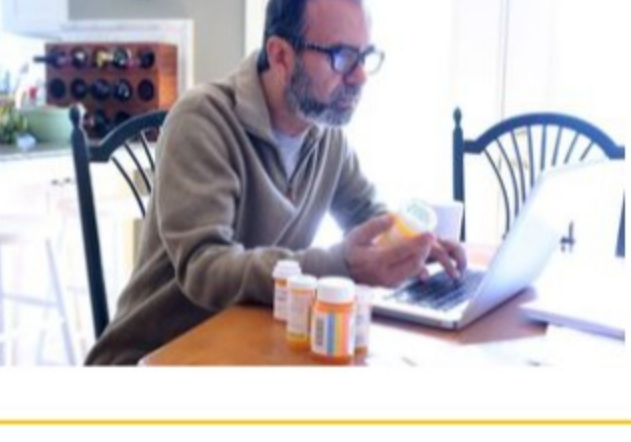
Online divorce can be a huge cost- and time-saver if you are able to come to an agreement with your spouse. With this option, divorce becomes an easy online transaction, not a months-long, expensive ordeal.

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Brette Sember *Brette Sember* is an editor, book coach, author and freelancer. She has written 40 books and helped hundreds of authors bring their book dreams to fruition. [Read More](#)

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