



ZEIGLER LAW GROUP



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# FAMILY LAW

## ROUNDTABLE

Navigating the legal complexities and emotional challenges of divorce can be overwhelming, and most people have questions about what to expect. Here, Firm Founder **Sonya K. Zeigler, Esq.** provides insight into common questions and concerns, such as choosing the right lawyer, talking with children about divorce, managing stress, and finding support and guidance.

### WHAT SURPRISES COUPLES ABOUT DIVORCE

Couples are often surprised at the amount of time it takes for a divorce to actually come to complete finality. They often think it will be over in a few months, but in most if not all cases, it typically takes a year or more.

### WHEN ONE PERSON DOESN'T WANT THE DIVORCE

I have had several cases where one of the parties did not want the divorce, and they are probably the saddest cases. But even in those cases, those litigants have contacted me years later and all of them are happier. They thank me for the support I gave them and the reassurance that life would get better.

### MEDIATION

Litigants believe they either go to court OR use mediation. I think that's one of the biggest misconceptions. Going to mediation happens when you file for divorce in New Jersey - the majority of our cases are resolved that way. Because going into court and having a judge make a decision in a hearing takes too long and costs too much money.

### TOUGHEST PART OF THE JOB

The toughest part of my job is trying to manage people's expectations with how the system functions right now. The courts are very understaffed in terms of judges. While the courts are trying to get back up to speed, it takes a long time for a divorce to be moved through the courts.

### BEST PART OF THE JOB

The best part is when I can really help someone achieve whatever objectives they were seeking to achieve. I've had clients say, "Thank you, I'm spending the winter in Florida every year because of the deal you got me on my divorce." That is the best part of what I do.

### ADVICE FOR NEWLY ENGAGED COUPLES

Have a consultation with an attorney to determine if a prenuptial agreement would be helpful. People sometimes believe if you have a prenup, you're setting the marriage up for failure. But if you look at it like a business decision, it makes sense to do your due diligence and see what you can do now to prevent something from being ugly later.