



Stephanie Dobson Lawyer & Mediator

How long will it take to be done with my divorce? I just want to be over!

If I can make one recommendation to you, it's for you to be patient. As you probably know, most often there is a one-year waiting period before your divorce can be finalized by the Court.

Once the decision to separate has been made, there are usually a variety of legal issues which must be handled before you can put your spousal relationship behind you. For example, you may need to resolve: parenting time (between mom's house and dad's house) and responsibilities, child support, division of property, and spousal support.

Practically speaking, post-breakup you will start to shift from being inter-dependent to being independent in such ways as finances, emotions, parenting, etc. Dealing with these "non-legal" issues can be time consuming, emotional, and down-right complicated. You and your former spouse likely spent a number of years inter-twining your lives from independent to inter-dependent. Allow yourself time to unravel the inter-dependency. I found a great Canadian book to help tune your mind to this unravelling: *The Business of Breaking Up: Your Personal Guide*, by Bhairvi Johnston (www.BreakingUpGuide.com).

As always, I encourage you to choose a process for resolving your separation & divorce issues which will allow you to communicate with your former spouse, with a view towards hopefully maintaining an effective co-parenting relationship. Processes such as family mediation and collaborative family law strive to ensure that this occurs.

Feel free to contact Stephanie to answer your questions or to set up a consultation.

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LAWYER & MEDIATOR



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