

Divorce Finalized for Sandra Bullock & Jesse James



Sandra Bullock and Jesse James finalized their divorce last week, [People](#) reported. Though it's uncertain if the couple had filed a pre-nuptial agreement, the *Associated Press* confirmed that the papers cited "discord or conflict of personalities" as the reason for the split, and the proceedings were amicable.

Is it possible to have a cordial divorce?

Cupid's Advice:

When it comes to divorce, the nature of the marriage often

indicates how things will go after it ends. Despite the sticky nature of their split, Bullock and James seemed to have a mature and respectful marriage while they were in it.

1. Over is over: Make sure all of the issues of your marriage are resolved before you sit down at the table to negotiate a divorce. If not, any festering issues could come out at the table and affect the proceedings.

2. Keep it private: Other than you and your respective lawyers, there is no reason to get anyone else involved – even good friends. It only makes things more complicated after the settlement.

3. Take time: After the divorce is finalized, separate yourself from your ex. No calls, emails, or other communication unless it's about the kids, or an emergency. It's important to heal the wounds and be alone. Once you have things figured out, maybe you can be a part of each other's lives again.

Michael Douglas Goes to Court Over Earnings Dispute with Ex-Wife





It seems like Michael Douglas may never be rid of his ex-wife. The [New York Post](#) reported Monday that Diandra Douglas filed a lawsuit in June against the actor, stating she has rights to half of his earnings from *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps*. When the couple divorced 10 years ago, the decree gave her rights to future earnings from spin-offs, residuals, and merchandising off Micheal's films made when they were married. The judge will determine whether or not Diandra is entitled to any money, as the new movie is a sequel, not a spin-off.

What's the best way to deal with an ex years down the road?

Cupid's Advice:

Divorce is typically a messy business, and can sometimes be more stressful than the marriage was. See Cupid's ways to help you out when dealing with an ex-spouse:

1. Try to see their perspective: After your divorce is

finalized you may think you'll never have to deal your ex again. Unfortunately, this is almost never the case. When you are faced with an issue involving that person, put yourself in their shoes before immediately arguing against them.

2. You loved them once: Keep in mind that there was once love shared between you two. At the very least, establish some ground rules, such as basic respect when you need to communicate.

3. Move on with your life: Even though you are no longer a couple – especially if you have children together – your ex-spouse will need a place in your new life. Accept this as a fact of life, so you can get past this.

Mark-Paul Gosselaar & Lisa Ann Russell Split After 14 Years!





After 14 years of marriage and two children together, Mark-Paul Gosselaar (better known as Zack Morris from *Saved By the Bell*) filed for divorce on June 18 from Lisa Ann Russell. [TMZ](#) confirmed the split on Friday. The couple's rep told [UsMagazine.com](#) that they will remain "focused on their family and are jointly committed to their children."

How can you focus on the kids when you dissolve a marriage?

Cupid's Advice:

No one wants to end a relationship, but there are times when parents find themselves sitting with lawyers to divide their assets – and figure out what to do about their children. Here are some ways to help alleviate stress when the kids are involved:

- 1. Let the older kids speak:** When dealing with something as permanent as divorce, always put the kids first. If they're old enough, talk with them and ask if they have any questions. If they're too young to understand, ensure that you spend positive quality time together as frequently as possible.

2. Play nice with your ex: You may think this an easy task, but when a relationship ends, you're bound to strike an occasional sour note. Try to keep tempers and attitudes in check, especially if the kids are within earshot.

3. Separate the issues: Ending your marriage shouldn't be a nasty fight to the finish. Work things out amicably and make sure you work out child custody arrangements. When the kids see that the two of you get along better now that you're apart, they may feel that the divorce was a better choice versus seeing their parents fighting constantly.

Tiki Barber's Divorce Settlement





After 11 years of marriage, former football great and NBC *Today* show commentator, Tiki Barber, is finding himself in the middle of a “giant” divorce settlement, reports the [New York Post](#). Several months ago, the father of four left his college sweetheart, Ginny Barber, who was pregnant with twins at the time, for a 23-year-old NBC intern. Now, the *Post* says he is trying to “low-ball” his wife by claiming he’s broke and unable to pay the settlement since being let go from his NBC gig.

If you and your ex can’t come to terms in an amicable way, how should you negotiate the best possible divorce agreement?

Cupid’s Advice:

Ending a marriage is unfortunate under any circumstances. Being prepared and obtaining counsel will help you through the process. Here’s Cupid’s advice:

1. Know your legal rights: Consult with a lawyer to help

evaluate any assets in question. This can include how social security benefits factor in, or your rights to a portion of a 401(k), pension, an IRA account, and even life insurance. Other key items you'll want to consider are a business, cars, home, securities such as stocks and bonds, collectibles, and everyday household items such as pots, pans and dishes. Take inventory!

2. Become financially savvy: Many couples go through marriage with only one person handling the household finances. When putting together a divorce settlement, it's critical that you are aware of money issues and the kind of numbers you are dealing with. It's also important to establish credit under your own name if you haven't done so already. This will help develop your own creditworthiness when trying to get your piece of the pie.

3. Children are priority: When children are involved, you'll want to work out the best possible settlement for them. Divorce is hard enough. It's important they continue to live the same lifestyle. Key factors to keep in mind include health insurance, college tuition, the family home, and general expenses.

Is Jesse James' Move to Texas an Attempt to Win Sandra Bullock Back?





They may be broken up, but Jesse James won't stay too far from Sandra Bullock. The TV personality told [TMZ](#) last weekend that he will move into his Texas house so his ex-wife can stay closely involved in his kid's lives. James said his three children – from different women – want to remain close to the actress. Regarding the future of his relationship with Bullock, with whom he is estranged from due to his infidelity, James told TMZ, "Whatever happens, happens." The move will take place after he returns to the U.S. after filming a special in Israel for the History Channel on a kibbutz.

Is there ever a good way to reconnect with an ex?

Cupid's Advice:

Assuming that James is looking to re-develop his relationship with Bullock, here are a few pointers he might find handy:

1. Make sure reconciliation is mutual: In order to successfully make peace after a break, both parties must be

willing to work on re-building their bond. Forcing someone to love you will only push him or her away further.

2. Accept responsibility: There is no excuse for bad behavior. Don't try to turn the tables and blame it on your partner. Accept and admit to your error.

3. Time: Allow your partner the time and space they need to think about the relationship on their own. Time may not heal all pains, but it helps.

Charlie Sheen & Brooke Mueller Sign Divorce Papers





Two and Half Men actor Charlie Sheen and Brooke Mueller signed divorce agreement papers on June 15th, reported [RadarOnline](#). [TMZ reported](#) that Sheen and Mueller will share joint custody of their one-year-old twins; Mueller will be granted primary custody, and Sheen will be given the first, third and fifth weekends of the month to see the boys. Sheen and Mueller made a mutual agreement not to disclose information concerning past affairs and or alleged drug use, and agreed not to insult one another in front of their children. The divorce agreement has yet to be filed in court.

What can you do to keep a divorce as peaceful as possible?

Cupid's Advice:

Divorces will always be hard. Here are some of Cupid's tips to help ease the transition:

1. Accept your mistakes: Rather than playing the blame game, understand that both of you played a role in the failure of your marriage. Owning up to your faults will also prevent unnecessary arguments.

2. Agree on space: After a divorce, both you and your ex need your personal space. Only contact your ex-spouse if it's absolutely necessary, or when it involves the children.

3. Leave the kids out: Your kids didn't divorce your ex, so avoid discussing matters of opinion concerning it with your children. Take a number from Sheen and Mueller, and avoid arguing with your ex when they're around. By avoiding trash talk and gossip, your children will continue loving and respecting each parent – just as they did before the divorce.

Jesse James & Ex-Wife Janine Battle for Sunny James





Last Friday, Jesse James allowed a long-awaited supervised meet-up between his 6-year-old daughter, Sunny James, with her mother, porn star Janine Lindemulder. The reason for the long delay? Up until the recent admission of infidelity by Jesse James, Lindemulder was considered to be the “bad” parent (Bitten and Bound). The former couple will be heading to court in two weeks to discuss more formal arrangements, provided Lindemulder has learned to put a filter on her conversations when near their little girl, as [US Weekly](#) reported.

Visitation is hard enough on kids these days. What can adults in this situation do to ensure equal, quality time?

Cupid's Advice:

James and Lindemulder need to take their daughter into consideration when making plans to spend with their child. In any visitation battle, it's best to take the necessary time to plot out important events so that all parties involved are able to have a successful, yet separate, relationship. Here are some ways to assist:

1. Make a list: Each adult needs to write out the special days they wish to share with their child(ren), whether it's a holiday or a school play, then compare each list with each other and choose which days are the most important.

2. Compromise: Whenever there's a conflict, you must be willing to concede when appropriate. You should always consider the child and their needs first. Talk it out and see if both of you can share a special day.

3. Talk with your child(ren): Once the two of you have come up with a plan of action and are in agreement, consider sitting down with your little ones (if they're old enough to understand), and let them know what you've come up with. At this point, you can ask how they feel about the arrangements, or if they have any questions.

Families are the backbone of society. They support you when you venture out into the world, and they are there to comfort you when you stumble. If you're part of a family living in separate houses, it doesn't mean that it can't work.

Al Gore's Daughter Has Marriage Troubles Of Her Own





Just shortly after her parents announced their divorce, Al Gore's eldest daughter's own separation was announced this week. Kareanna Gore Schiff and husband, Andrew Schiff, have been married for 13 years, and have three children together. A source close to the couple told [People](#) that the split is amicable. During their marriage, the couple balanced their busy personal and work lives to remain involved in each others' lives. They are not formally divorced, and are seeing a marriage counselor during their separation.

Can a separation really lead to something other than divorce?

Cupid's Advice:

Gore Schiff and her husband have always found a way to make their marriage work, even if it meant becoming involved in each others' professional lives. While a separation may lead to divorce, it can also be a time of healing and solving problems – leading to a better marriage in the future.

1. Acknowledge the issues: Separation happens for a reason.

It's important to talk about things without bias. Both parties have contributed to the split, and in order to move on, each person needs to recognize their respective faults.

2. Learn to live alone: In marriage, many people live for for each other and forget who they are without the relationship. It's important to be on your own again. You must be confident in yourself as an individual before you can be confident in your relationship.

3. Move one step at a time: Working from a separation back to marriage takes time, and won't be solved overnight. It's a process. If it doesn't happen, at least you know that you've tried.

Is LeAnn Rimes to Blame for Cheating?





In the latest issue of [People](#), LeAnn Rimes says she has only herself to blame after cheating on her husband of seven years, Dean Cain, with Eddie Cibrian. “I did one of the most selfish things that I possibly could do, in hurting someone else,” but the 27-year-old singer added that she doesn’t regret the outcome. Rimes and Cibrian, 36, became friends on the set of *Northern Lights*, a *Lifetime* movie they starred in together. Although both were married to others during filming, they found themselves falling in love. Rimes and Cibrian are currently in a committed relationship, and their respective divorces will soon be final. **For couples who have seen the worst and have lost faith in themselves or their mates, how can you get your life back on track?**

Cupid’s Advice:

Rimes is on her way to forgiveness. She has taken steps to bring her wrongdoing into the public eye, accepted responsibility for her actions, and understands that it will take time for everyone involved to heal.

1. Be honest with yourself: If there are problems in your

relationship, take matters into your own hands, and talk to your significant other before you chat it up with someone else.

2. Take the next step: After discussing the issues that lead you to think of others, you should figure out how to work on the problems in your relationship together. As a team, you may find success.

3. Take time out: Working out kinks and complications can be draining. Set time aside to unwind from the stress involved. Whether this time is spent as a couple or alone, is irrelevant; you need to decide what works best for the two of you.

Sean Penn & Robin Wright Divorce in Mean Spirits





After 20 years of marriage with actress Robin Wright, Sean Penn is now officially a single man. Though Penn has historically tried to keep his private life under wraps, Penn opens up about the end of his relationship in an interview with *Vanity Fair*, even going so far as to say his ex-wife is “a ghost” to him. Penn added that being single will give him more time to fully commit to humanitarian work.

After the end of a marriage, what is acceptable to talk about in public and what matters should be held sacred and private?

Cupid’s Advice:

Penn crosses a line in his interview, making comments that were unnecessary, like insulting his ex-wife, and nonsensical, like implying that his marriage kept him from doing humanitarian work. When talking about an ex, you shouldn’t reveal anything you wouldn’t want revealed about you.

1. Don’t name call or place blame: No break-up is the sole responsibility of one party, and it looks childish and inconsiderate to point fingers.

2. Keep private things private: If it wasn't spoken about when together, why air your dirty laundry? Some things, like sex, money, and family issues may be better kept under wraps.

3. Never look back and regret: Every relationship is a learning experience, even if it requires sacrifice. Sure, you might have turned vegetarian for an ex, or slowed down volunteer work to start a family, but you gained much more through the experience than you lost. Take time to finally enjoy what you couldn't while in your relationship.

Al Gore Splits From Wife



Al and Tipper Gore were high school sweethearts, and their relationship has withstood the Vietnam War, the near death of a child, and a failed presidential campaign attempt in 2000. Now, the couple that seemed unbreakable, announced that they have chosen to go their separate ways.

How do you pick up the pieces after spending half a lifetime with the same person?

Cupid's Advice:

Many couples feel pressured to stick together, even when they are worlds apart in their own lives. If you find that you don't know who you're living with any longer, consider the following to help understand your situation.

1. Pay Attention: For duos that celebrate yet another anniversary but suddenly realize that they aren't the same two people that got married, it's time to open your eyes and see yourselves as individuals.

2. Clear the cobwebs: This may sound cliché, but one of the best ways to start fresh is getting rid of any obstacles you think are blocking your path.

3. Focus on your future: One thing many longtime couples forget is that while they may be 'one' within a relationship, they're still separate people, and are entitled to their own road in life – even if this means traveling in different directions. If splitting up is necessary, know that you can find yourself in the process. Picking up the pieces may take awhile, but it can be done without guilt or pain if done right. _____