


# Relationship Advice: 5 Lessons to Learn from Celebrity Divorce



 By Dixie Somers

The pain of divorce is a well-known one in our society today. Lending to this general awareness is the constant influx of celebrity break-up news that seems to flow endlessly. Although viewed negatively by some, such news can provide high-profile educational experiences. Take a lesson from these celebrities. Here are five lessons we can learn from celebrity divorces:

## Watch the Signs

Sometimes it can be conveniently blissful to ignore certain signs. Ignoring the signs can lead to even greater heartache and woes in the future. Take it from Elin Nordegren, ex-wife of golf legend Tiger Woods. According to various reports, Elin had ignored many troubling signs of the dozens of affairs. Today, Lindsey Vonn is dating Woods. Apparently she isn't one for signs either.

**Related:** [Is Divorce the Best Option?](#)

## Don't Rush

Time and time again, we see the perils of marrying too quickly. Britney Spears became infamous for rushing to the altar in such a fashion. After a very quick, whirlwind romance excursion, Spears and Jason Alexander got married in a Las Vegas chapel. Sure, they had known each other for a long time before. But the topic of marriage had been fairly instantaneous and unplanned; so too was the decision to end it

merely days later.

### **Get a “Prenup”**

Prenuptial agreements protect the marrying parties and their individually owned assets and worth. For chivalry, for love, or maybe just for sheer lack of knowing, some go without any such protective measures. The results seen can be devastating: Mel Gibson paid \$425-million, Michael Jordan paid \$168-million, Madonna paid approximately \$80-million – the list goes on. Talk with a Lexis Nexis lawyer to make sure you’ve done your prenuptial agreement right.

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### **Don’t Cheat**

In case you didn’t know it, cheating is bad, destructive, and a quick end to an otherwise successful marriage. Take Jesse James for example. He had it all – wealth, a name, reputation, career, and last but certainly not least, Sandra Bullock, America’s sweetheart as his wife. So what does the genius do? Cheat. We have seen the sad results for James as Bullock has moved on.

### **Be Sure**

It’s always important to understand your potential partner in marriage on a deep level. You need to really “know” them. Kris Humphries found this out with his brief and now alleged “fake, staged” marriage to socialite celebrity, Kim Kardashian. We still can’t figure out if we should pity Kris and his situation, or simply point to it all as one big public service announcement.

There you have it; five more reasons to be take a second look before saying your vows. If your getting married, do it right. Take a few tips from these celebrity divorce stories.

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# Celebrity Couples Keeping the Faith Alive



 By Jennifer Harrington

Hollywood is a glamorous place that can most certainly be a challenging place to raise well-adjusted, grounded children. Over time, we have seen celebrity couples try unique parenting tactics to bring up their children right, while in the spotlight. In fact, some celebrities turn to faith and religion as they navigate parenthood. Here is a look at a few stars who have relied on spirituality during their parenting journeys.

## Tom Cruise

Tom is undoubtedly the most famous Scientologist, and his controversial religion was rumored to be a primary cause of his recent divorce from Katie Holmes. While their young daughter Suri spends the majority of her time with her mom, Tom is still committed to being a strong influence in his child's life (in fact, Suri frequently calls her father when he is on-location filming). It's likely he will try to pass along his core religious beliefs to his daughter. Tom also raised his two oldest children (with ex-wife Nicole Kidman) in the Scientology faith.

**Related:** [Sources Say Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes are 'Incredibly Happy' Post-Divorce](#)

## Mel Gibson

Before recent scandals tarnished Mel's reputation, he was most well-known for being an established Hollywood actor and devout Catholic. In fact, he directed and produced *The Passion of the Christ* in 2004. Mel is the father of eight children, and is very outspoken about his religious convictions. Despite the rumors that persist that some of his offspring are wild and fun-loving, there's no doubt Mel attempted to raise the kids with a Catholic-based foundation.

**Related:** [Three Ways to Background Check Your Next Date](#)

### **Kirk Cameron**

Kirk, who was a major star in the 1980s on the hit television show *Growing Pains*, abandoned his teen heartthrob status after became a born-again Christian at age 17. In fact, after he developed a relationship with Jesus, he began to insist that storylines be edited to remove anything he thought too adult or inappropriate for the show. He is now a husband and father of six children, as well as a full-fledged evangelist. He currently co-hosts a religious-themed television show.


Like everybody else, celebrities have different beliefs, but it's not often you see celebrities outspoken about their dedication to a given religion, and even less frequently you can cite a parent in Hollywood guiding their offspring with faith.

**Tell Cupid: what are the biggest benefits for celebrities keeping the faith alive, and raising their children in a religious home?**

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# How to Make Sure Your Divorce is Amicable, Fair and Fast



 By Amy Osmond Cook

Thanks to Kris Humphries and Kim Kardashian, we have the celebrity divorce spectacle to which we've become accustomed. There are no kids (and apparently no deep feelings) involved, but oh, do we have drama! This divorce, like so many others, is all about money. Consider the top ten biggest divorce payouts in history below:

**Related Link:** [Five Celebrity Divorces We Really Weren't Expecting](#)

- Rupert Murdoch's divorce from Anna Murdoch; estimated at \$1.7 billion
- Adnan Khashoggi's divorce from Soraya Khashoggi; estimated at \$850 million
- Bernie Ecclestone's divorce from Slavica; estimated at £750m
- Craig McCaw's divorce from Wendy McCaw; estimated to exceed \$460 million
- Mel Gibson's divorce from Robyn; estimated at \$425 million
- Michael Jordan's divorce from Juanita Jordan; estimated to exceed \$260 million
- Charles Edgar Fipke's divorce from Marlene Fipke; estimated at \$200 million
- Neil Diamond's divorce from Marcia Murphey; estimated at \$150 million

- Harrison Ford's divorce from Melissa Mathison; estimated at \$118 million
- Greg Norman's divorce from Laura Andrassy; estimated at \$103 million

Most of us won't have a divorce settlement in the millions, but there are a few things you can do to make sure that any future split with your partner is amicable, fair, and fast:

**1. Write a prenup.** An ironclad prenup is the easiest way to speed up the divorce process. In 1985, Steven Spielberg and Amy Irving wrote a prenuptial agreement on a cocktail napkin. Four years later, Amy contested the agreement—and won. As a result, she received a settlement of about 100 million, or half of her ex-husband's earnings, after just four years of marriage. The reason? Her attorney wasn't present, allowing her to contest the prenup on the grounds of fairness, full disclosure, and duress. In the absence of an ironclad prenup, husbands and wives usually split their assets equally.

**Related Link:** [Prince William and Kate Middleton: To Prenup or Not to Prenup?](#)

**2. Don't cheat.** Rudy Giuliani's public affair with Judith Nathan cost him dearly when he and his wife, Donna Hanover, divorced. When they separated in October 2000, he was making a modest income as a government official. Then the 9/11 tragedy happened, and his popularity soared. Because they were already separated, Donna wasn't legally entitled to the money he made following the date of separation, including an estimated \$8M in speaking fees alone. But because Giuliani wanted to keep some of the more salacious details of his personal life out of the public record, he settled—paying an estimated \$6.8M, a substantially higher amount than he was legally obligated to pay.

**3. Don't forget about intellectual property.** Sometimes the greatest assets are the intangible ones. In 2000, Michael

Douglas agreed to pay his first wife, Diandra, half of the acting earnings he accrued while they were married, including money from any future “spinoffs.” In 2011, Diandra filed suit, stating that she was entitled to half of Michael’s earnings from *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps*, because it is a spinoff from the original *Wall Street* (which was filmed during their marriage). Michael claims is that the new movie is a sequel and *not* a spinoff, so Diandra isn’t entitled to anything. The case revolves around one point: Is the new movie a spinoff or a sequel? If it’s a spinoff, she gets half. If it’s a sequel, she gets nothing. In this case, a judge will decide. But you can learn from Michael’s potentially costly mistake by shoring up your intellectual property rights.

The key to an amicable split is to decide money matters before it gets ugly. Whether you are happily married or contemplating divorce, considering a prenup, keeping your actions blackmail-proof, and dealing with your intellectual property will serve you well.

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## **Mel Gibson’s Ex Takes Half of His Fortune in Divorce**

✘ Mel Gibson's divorce came with a price. Gibson's divorce from wife Robyn Moore was finalized Friday in Los Angeles, reports [People](#). Moore, Gibson's ex-wife of nearly 30 years and mother of their seven children, was awarded half of Mel Gibson's near \$850 million fortune. The couple had no prenuptial agreement, so Moore is legally entitled to half of what Gibson earned during their marriage. Gibson's divorce payout is considered to be one of the biggest in Hollywood history.

**How do you decide whether a prenuptial agreement is necessary?**

### **Cupid's Advice:**

It's possible to ask for a prenuptial agreement without offending your partner. Here are a few reasons to ask for a prenuptial agreement:

**1. Career differences:** Most people are married when they are young, and before they start to earn serious amounts of money. If you feel that either you or your partner has high earning potential, then ask for a prenuptial agreement.

**2. Salary differences:** If you currently earn much more or much less than your partner, a prenuptial agreement is in your best interest. The agreement will protect your monetary well-being in any future fall-outs.

**3. Previous marriages:** If you have been married and divorced before, it may be a good idea to ask for a prenuptial agreement. Learning from past mistakes and taking precautions in case your new marriage also ends poorly is a reasonable and wise decision.

**If necessary, should you ask for a prenuptial agreement? Feel free to leave a comment with your thoughts below!**

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# Oksana Grigorieva Discusses Why She Settled with Mel Gibson



It's official! Russian musician Oksana Grigorieva accepted last week's truce deal – worth \$3 million – with Mel Gibson, [RadarOnline.com](http://RadarOnline.com) reports. A forensic accountant analyzed this deal with the \$15 million settlement from 2010. “The previous offer was structured in a way that made its value less than \$1 million,” her lawyer Daniel Horowitz said. “Moreover, it required Oksana to surrender to Gibson all evidence in the criminal case against her, which could have made her subject to criminal charges ranging from bribery to destruction of evidence.” Grigorieva's lawyers value the present settlement, which includes 16 years living rent free in a \$1.8 million home, \$750,000 in periodic payments, payments to attorney fees and rights to her album and videos, “at over \$3 million.”

**How do you know when to drop an argument in a relationship?**

## **Cupid's Advice:**

When you're quarrelling in a relationship, what you want most is to end it. Here are some suggestions on when to drop an argument:

- 1. Identified main issue:** Once you have both figured out what caused the argument and shared how deeply it impacted each other, it's safe to move on from it.
- 2. Fixed the issue:** When a resolution to the issue has been decided so you can avoid the argument from resurfacing in the future, it's best to stop discussing it.

**3. Apologized:** The best ending to an argument is when one or both of you has apologized sincerely.

When do you think it's best to drop an argument in a relationship? Let us know by commenting below.

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## Wicked Celebrity Breakups



By [Jessica DeRubbo](#)

Let's face it: It's not often that breakups and divorces are civil and lacking in drama. In fact, most are ridden with angry fights, jealousy and revenge. America's A-list celebs prove that theory better than any other group! Consider Bristol Palin, Courteney Cox and Mel Gibson.

### Bristol Palin

After revealing that she was expecting a baby during her mom's run for Vice President, a teenaged Bristol Palin announced her engagement to baby daddy Levi Johnston. Things eventually turned sour, however, when the couple called it quits and both of their families turned to the media for revenge. Johnston bad-mouthed Palin's family in an attempt to destroy it in a famous interview with [Vanity Fair](#). He said that Sarah Palin originally wanted to keep her daughter's pregnancy a secret and then adopt the child as her own when he was born. When the couple decided to try to make it work again recently, things went downhill pretty quickly. Bristol talked to the tabloids herself this time, claiming that she called it quits with Johnston due to his being in an intimate music video with singer, Brittani Sener. Johnston had apparently told Palin

that he was going to Hollywood to film a hunting show. Even now, as Bristol stars on this season's *Dancing with the Stars*, Johnston had something to say about it, remarking that she never once danced with him while they were together. Big or small, the drama won't seem to leave this couple alone!

Unfortunately, with a son in the picture, the two will have to eventually make it work in a civil way.

## **Courtney Cox**

Everyone's favorite *Friends* actress Courtney Cox isn't innocent to relationship drama either. Although we have yet to hear much from her camp after her split from husband David Arquette after 11 years, Arquette has been very vocal. What started out as a united statement to the media, saying, "The reason for this separation is to better understand ourselves and the qualities we need in a partner and for our marriage.

We remain best friends and responsible parents to our daughter and we still love each other deeply. As we go through this process we are determined to use kindness and understanding to get through this together" quickly led to Arquette's shocking radio interview with Howard Stern. The actor commented on the couple's sex life, among other things.

"We're not having sex, and I completely understand," he said. "She's in a place of wanting to be real and emotional.

She's an emotional being. She's an amazing woman. If it doesn't feel right, she doesn't feel like bonding in that way." It's been reported that Cox is more than unhappy about her former flame's big mouth (I know I definitely don't blame her!), but it remains to be seen where the two will go from here. It's so sad when a celebrity couple who seems to have it all together shocks us with buried anger and bitterness!

## **Mel Gibson**

And then, of course, there's the case of Mel Gibson. After being married for 28 years to Robyn Gibson, Mel left his wife for Russian entertainer, Oksana Grigorieva. The couple dated

for two years before breaking up, at which point Gibson allegedly lost it and began leaving abusive messages for his ex. The crazy messages were recorded and eventually leaked to the public. In them, Gibson uses explicit language and is very hostile toward Grigorieva. At one point, he says, ““You’re a f–ing mentally deprived idiot. You’re a f–ing using whore ... I own you.” At another point, Grigorieva says, “You control me, like marionette ... I walk on eggshells with you.” Fighting words! The duo have been in a legal battle ever since. Personally, I’d want it all over and done with as quickly as humanly possible, wouldn’t you?

Drama, drama, drama! Some celebs just can’t avoid it. And when you add an anger-ridden break-up or divorce into the picture, A-listers seem to lose all control.

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## Oksana Grigorieva’s Son to Be Questioned



The Los Angeles county sheriff’s department is seeking Alexander Dalton, son of Oksana Grigorieva, for questioning on his mother’s relationship with Mel Gibson, [TMZ](#) reported last week. The department believes that Dalton, Grigorieva’s son with actor Tim Dalton, will be able to give critical evidence about the fights between Gibson and his mother.

**How can a child be protected from parental problems?**

## Cupid's Advice:

Grigorieva and Gibson's fights have been public due to the release of recordings by [RadarOnline.com](http://RadarOnline.com), but until now, the fight has not involved anyone outside the couple. It's important to separate the the legal issues for the benefit of the family, and the quality of life of the children.

**1. Keep it professional:** Even if a child gets involved in the legal matters, it's important that those matters are kept within a legal setting. Don't discuss them at home, or bring them up when talking about other things.

**2. Leverage:** As in, don't use it. Fights between parents should never be used as a bargaining tool to play the child against a mother or father. The kid isn't a pawn in the parents' problems and situations.

**3. Allow for distance:** If it looks like a child is being taken advantage of, or used to tip the scales in one person's favor over the other, it is up to another family member, or close friend who is aware of the situation, to step in and remove the child. Whether it's staying with grandparents for awhile, or just getting them out of the house, it's important that the kids have their own space.

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# Mel Gibson's Break-Up Takes a New Turn



Mel Gibson continues to draw attention regarding his break-up

with baby mama, Oksana Grigorieva. [RadarOnline](#) reported last week that a taped phone conversation between the actor and his ex-girlfriend included less than flattering racial remarks directed towards her. Gibson has a history of potentially detrimental comments, and has a documented history of drunken misbehavior.

## **Are there more effective ways to break-up?**

### **Cupid's Advice:**

When a relationship ends there are going to be hurt feelings, but if you deal with them properly, you'll have a better chance of coming to terms with your break-up. Read how Cupid deals with negative emotions:

- 1. Express yourself:** When you find yourself in the middle of a nasty break-up with, it's healthy to get those feelings out. Try to turn your feelings into positive energy – and don't direct the negativity to your ex. It won't solve anything.
  - 2. Talk to someone unbiased:** When you're going through an emotional upheaval, logic tends to be forgotten. Go to a trusted family member or friend to confide in, and listen to their suggestions. They'll tend to be more objective since they aren't directly involved in the situation.
  - 3. Be understanding:** You are not the only person feeling hurt. Consider your former partner's feelings before reacting.
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# Mel Gibson vs. Oksana Grigorieva: Restraining Orders



[RadarOnline](#) reported Friday that 54-year-old actor Mel Gibson filed a sealed restraining order against ex-girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva, the mother of his seven-month-old illegitimate daughter, Lucia. However [TMZ](#) reported an hour later that Grigorieva filed a domestic violence restraining order against the actor, claiming he was violent towards her. Gibson's restraining order was filed to keep his ex from releasing certain information, as well as ensuring child visitation rights.

**How do you deal with child visitation after a not so amicable break up?**

## **Cupid's Advice:**

While no breakup is immune to problems, there are ways to ensure your children don't bear the burden of your issues.

- 1. Ask for help:** If you and your ex can't stand to be in the same room together, find a close friend or family member that can assist with figuring out a schedule that works for the both of you.
- 2. Hire a mediator:** A professional can meet with each of you separately and come back with an arrangement that gives both parents equal time with the kids.
- 3. Include the children:** Ask the older ones about their wishes. It's important to include them in your decision if

you can. This will go along way to help them understand the breakup isn't about them.