

Volume 3 | Issue 3 | March 3, 2026

Divorce with Respect Week

March 1st through the 8th is recognized across the country as Divorce with Respect Week. This nationwide movement was created primarily to shed light on the collaborative divorce process which encourages civility and respect in the midst of separation by finding common goals between divorcing parties and choosing alternatives to litigation. This is only

one alternative to the traditional divorce process and may not serve every client or practitioner. However, many may find the process beneficial. The following article was provided by a Domestic Bar member who shares the “aha” moment their client experienced during the collaborative divorce process. To learn more about this week, click [HERE](#).

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Divorce is never easy. But it does not have to be destructive. I worked with a couple who had been married for almost eleven years. One was a successful professional, both were deeply involved parents, and they were absolutely exhausted from trying to manage their separation on their own.



They were not screaming at each other. They were not filing emergency motions. But they were stuck in a cycle of defensiveness and quiet hostility. Every email felt like a test. Every conversation about scheduling felt like a power move.

Communication was either too emotional or too cold. They loved their children fiercely—and did not trust one another.

We began the collaborative process with a full collaborative team: two collaboratively trained attorneys, a neutral financial professional, and a mental health professional. In our first joint meeting, while goal setting, the mental health professional asked a simple question:

“What do you most hope your children will say about how you handled this divorce ten years from now?”

There was silence. Then the father said, “I want them to say we put them first.”

The mother nodded and added, “I want them to feel safe in both of our homes.”

That was the moment. You could feel the shift in the room. The temperature changed. No longer were we arguing about who deserved more parenting time or who had sacrificed more during the marriage. They were aligned around something bigger: **the long-term emotional health of their children.**

We transitioned from positional negotiation to interest-based negotiation.



From there, everything became more constructive. The financial conversations became transparent. Parenting discussions focused on developmental needs instead of perceived slights. Hard topics were still hard—but they were addressed with intention instead of escalation.

By the end of the process, they had a comprehensive parenting plan tailored to their children’s personalities and schedules, a thoughtful financial structure that preserved stability for both households, and—most importantly—a functional co-parenting relationship. Both parties got to leave with not only ownership of their divorce process, but also a creative plan that was uniquely tailored to them and their children.

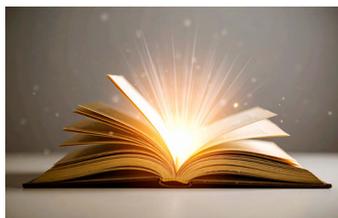
Months later, one of them told me, “We didn’t just get divorced. We learned how to be divorced.” That is the power of collaborative divorce.

Ask your client:

- **Do you want a process that protects children from unnecessary conflict?**
- **Do you want financial transparency instead of financial defensiveness?**
- **Do you want to make decisions for your family—or hand them to a judge?**
- **Do you care about the long-term relationship you will have with your co-parent?**



Collaborative divorce is not for everyone. But for families who value dignity, privacy, and future-focused problem solving, it can be transformational.



As practitioners, we can avail this option to our clients to get divorced with. To be a co-captain alongside us in creating their next chapters. To create found wins and tailored settlements specific to their case instead of proscribed standards. To be able to transition to co-parents from romantic partners, while still being able to dance with each other at their children’s weddings one day.

The Court and our judges are wonderful resources for families in high conflict situations, but they are not the only available pathway to resolution. Ensuring our clients and our bar are informed and equipped with these other options can change the course of a family’s life, and certainly a child’s. If you are interested in learning more or attending an upcoming training, please feel welcome to reach out to Collaborative Divorce Nashville at hello@collaborativedivorcenashville.com.

Collaborative Divorce
NASHVILLE

Collaborative Divorce Training Opportunity

Interested in learning more about becoming a collaborative divorce professional? Attend a remote introductory interdisciplinary collaborative divorce training on April 6th and 7th! Learn more and register by clicking [HERE](#) or by scanning the QR code:



Court Recording Video Requests

In the event that attorneys or *pro se* parties would like to request video recordings of their court hearings, such requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Court. Requests may be made through the Trial Court Administrator's Office by clicking the following link: [Request Media Recording of Court Proceedings](#) or by scanning the QR code:



Please allow up to five (5) business days for your request to be reviewed and either approved or denied.

The Pro Se Docket with Special Master Menke

In cases where both parties are self represented and are seeking an Agreed Divorce, the Fourth Circuit Court has a *pro se* Motion to Set Docket on Thursdays. This docket is overseen by Special Master Kristen Menke.

To help litigants understand this docket, Special Master Menke explains the process for obtaining and filing the correct paperwork, appearing at the *pro se* Motion to Set Docket, and finalizing these divorces in the following video. You may view it by clicking this link: [Pro Se Motion Docket with Special Master Kristen Menke](#) or the image below or by scanning the QR code below:



Information for Filing Emergency Motions with the Clerk's Office

In the event that an attorney or *pro se* litigant needs to submit an emergency filing, it is important to alert the Circuit Court Clerk's Staff and the Fourth Circuit Staff of such filing. The following steps outline the appropriate measures to take to ensure the filing is timely reviewed and processed.

- 1 In the eFile system, there is an option to leave a note to the Clerk under "Special Filing Instruction for the Clerk." Include this note BEFORE clicking submit.

See the image below for what this looks like in the eFile system:

Case Type : DIVORCE COMPLAINT- PARTIES HAVE NO MINOR CHILD(REN) (MUST ALSO FILE STATISTICAL SHEET)

Client #

Document(s) to be Submitted:

[Add/Remove Documents](#)

Document Name	View Document	On Behalf of
AGREED ORDER	26_02_13_Order Rescinding Slow Pay .pdf	PARTY NAME, PARTY NAME: PLAINTIFF

Special Filing Instructions for the Clerk:

Please add comment in this section

[Back](#) [Cancel \(Delete\)](#) [Move to Draft](#) [Submit the Filing](#)

THEN click "Submit"

- 2 Before or immediately after submitting the emergency filing, please contact the Circuit Court Clerk's Office and alert them of the urgency of the filing. Be prepared to provide the docket number and style of the case. Their office may be reached at (615) 862-5181.
- 3 Additionally, the Fourth Circuit staff does not get immediate notice of filings. Please email courtesy copies of the emergency filings to our Judicial Assistant Ronnell Griffin at ronnellgriffin@jnsnashville.gov.
- 4 Finally, please review our Chamber Rules for all requirements regarding filing emergency *ex parte* requests for Temporary Restraining Orders.

Calendar

March

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		17	18	19		
				26		

3/5: Special Master Menke's Case Management Docket at 9 a.m. via Zoom

3/17 – 3/19: Irreconcilable Differences Divorce Docket via Waiver Appearance ONLY

3/26: Judge Williams' Status Conference Docket at 1 p.m. in Person or Via Zoom

Judge Williams' Dismissal Docket at 2:30 p.m.

April

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				16		

4/3: Office Closed for Good Friday

4/16: Judge Williams' Status Conference Docket at 1 p.m. in Person or Via Zoom

Judge Williams' Dismissal Docket at 2:30 p.m.

For a complete view of our regularly scheduled dockets and available Court dates, please see the calendar page on our website by clicking here: [Website Calendar](#) or by scanning the QR code:



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Feel free to share this newsletter with anyone who may be of interest. You may also email RebekahLHaralson@jjsnashville.gov to be added to the mailing list!

Additionally, you may view this and all previous newsletters on our website by clicking this link: [Updates and Announcements](#) or by scanning the QR code:

