



Divorce Money Grabbers

*Things to NOT Say and Do
During Your Divorce*

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INTRODUCTION:

This eBooklet will give you many things NOT to say to your soon to be ex-spouse while you are trying to negotiate your divorce.

The items listed here were not made up out of thin air, they have been experienced, witnessed and viewed after years of working with clients in a [very successful law practice](#).

You don't have to believe it to practice it. If you're reading these tips then you need them. Therefore, your challenge is to put aside your own will and put into practice what you're about to read.

If you follow the advice here, and actually put it into practice during your divorce, your divorce will be a lot more friendly, less expensive and more bearable over all.

Your divorce does not have to be a root canal, it can be settled without excruciating pain and you won't have to give up your entire wallet in the process.

Let's get to the tips. **On the following pages you will find 52 tips of what NOT to do.** If you would like to find more tips on What you ***SHOULD*** do please check out **Divorce Money Makers: The Right Things to Say and Do during Your Divorce.**

Don't make the first concession. Studies indicate that doing so is rarely appreciated and often leads to expectations of further concessions.

Don't ask for a specific concession, because that sounds too confrontational. Instead, say something like, *"If I have to give a little in order for you to give a little, I will do so. I hope you will reciprocate so we can bring this thing to an end. We don't really want to be arguing about this same issue a year from now, do we?"*

Don't say yes to a first offer, even if you think it's a good deal. Doing so leaves the other spouse with thoughts that they offered too much. You want your partner to feel good about the negotiations and not be kicking themselves later. They will always be part of your life, and you don't want your ex harboring angry feelings about not getting a better deal.

Don't say no too quickly. Allow sufficient time to pass before you respond. If you want your spouse to give serious thought to what you want, you have to give at least the impression of giving serious thought to what your spouse wants.

Don't start tough and refuse to budge.



Don't start in the middle and refuse to budge. Create negotiating room by starting somewhere between the middle and

your dream result. Then move in small increments that always get smaller.

Don't ever add "value" (real or imagined) to your offer.

Remarks like, "Anyone in their right mind would know that I am being way too generous" convey your superiority and imply that your spouse is stupid for not knowing what is "good" for them.

Don't start at your bottom line. Inexperienced negotiators feel more comfortable doing so, but try to resist this temptation because it leaves no room for compromise. It leads to deadlock, and deadlock leads to a court battle.

Don't shoot from the hip and say what comes naturally.

This is one of the times in life that we do not have free speech.

Don't ask for something outrageous unless you find joy in paying outrageous attorney's fees. Divorce wars don't pay; you do.



Don't be confrontational. Forget saying things like, "That's not what happened and you know it" or "Maybe you should have thought of that before you took up with your boss" or "I'll go to jail first before I..." Equally bad are confrontational questions such as, "why are you being so emotional?" or "why are you doing this to me?" Instead say things like, "Tell me more," and "please help me to understand."

Don't attack your spouse. Instead, attack the problem with your spouse. For example, say:

"The problem really isn't because of you or me. It's because there isn't enough money to go around. Let's see what we can do to make the shoe fit."

Don't respond with angry threats. Don't say, "I'll quit my job, and then what will you have?" or "I'm going for full custody" or "that's it, I'm through talking to you. I'm hiring a Doberman for a lawyer and you're going to regret the day..."

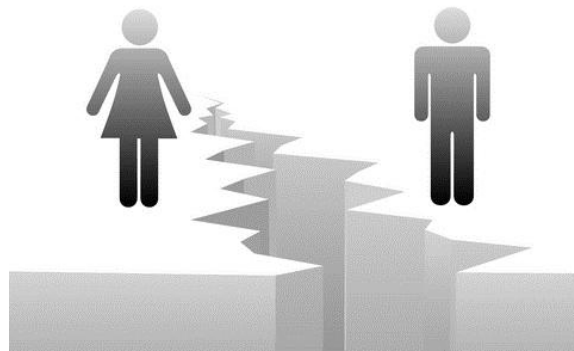
Don't make statements blaming your spouse for the past because you feel victimized.

Don't display a "you owe me" attitude or make any statements that depict you as a victim. Statements such as "I've given you my best years, and now, because of you and your tootsie, I'm probably going to end up being a bag lady" will only anger your spouse and won't help your cause one bit.



Don't transmit that you believe you should receive something extra because of past deeds. Things like working a lot of overtime or two jobs, cooking, cleaning, supporting the other's career, etc., simply do not count. There is no back pay.

Don't react when your spouse throws a zinger at you. Deal with it by turning the zinger into a question, such as, "I am sincerely curious about why you feel that I'm the cause of the breakdown in our communications. Sometimes I don't see the whole picture, so please tell me where you feel I went wrong."



Don't say things like:

"Calm down!"

"Get a grip!"

"You're over reacting!"

"Get over it!"

"Anyone see my violin?"

"My heart bleeds for you."

"You started it!"

"Surely you're joking?"

"Grow up!"

"What's eating you today?"

"Looks like someone got up on the wrong side of bed today."

Don't pass up an opportunity to remain silent.

Don't blame your spouse for anything. Blame just makes them angry, and angry people don't settle.

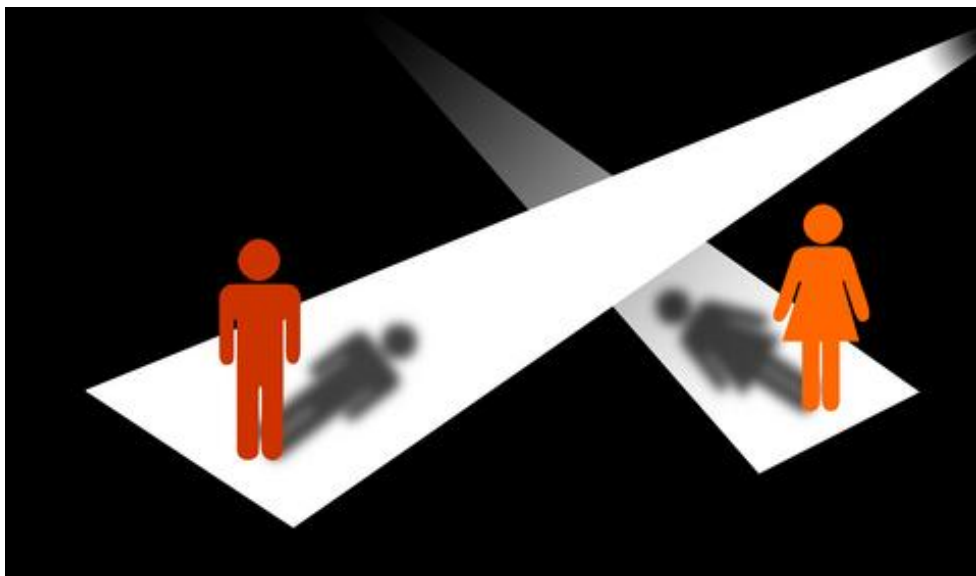
Don't insult your partner.

Don't expect sympathy from your spouse. Your spouse definitely expects to get sympathy from you, not the other way around.

Don't ever say you know how your spouse feels. This is the ultimate no-no.

Don't avoid eye contact while listening, you will likely communicate disapproval or lack of interest.

Don't register disapproval of anything your spouse says with facial expressions or body language.



Don't attack your spouse's offer, and don't put your spouse down for suggesting it. Always validate their suggestion as a possibility, explain why you disagree, and then ask for their assistance in coming up with "something both of us might like."

Don't carry on when your spouse's answer is no. A no is rarely final and usually serves to mark the real starting point of the negotiation process.

Don't talk when your partner is talking. You can't negotiate with anyone until you know what they're thinking, and you can't know what they're thinking until you listen to them. Always allow your spouse to speak more than you do.

Don't tell your spouse what is fair. "Fair" is something that exists in your mind only and is of little importance to your spouse. What are the odds of someone ever saying "of course, I'll accept your proposal; I would be nuts to question something you have decreed to be fair"?



Don't stonewall your partner. This is when you flat-out reject their position as being ridiculous. We can stonewall either by

ignoring them or by saying things like, "do what you want, see if I give two hoots."

Don't anticipate what your spouse will say next. In other words, don't mentally jump ahead to what you think their next point will be.



Don't generalize your spouse's position to be only what you expect it to be. Listen hard to fully comprehend everything that is said.

Don't offer interpretations of your spouse's behavior.

Forget statements like, "You weren't calling to talk to the kids. You were just checking to see if I went out with my friends. I deserve a life, too!"

Don't impose your values upon your spouse with statements like, "A decent person wouldn't do what you did" or "Maybe the children should know that their father/mother has no morals."

Don't ever say that you pity your spouse, because that is condescending. Pity suggests sorrow for others who are generally less fortunate - and this is not the time you want your spouse to feel less fortunate.

Don't ramble on about how you didn't mean to hurt your spouse. This does not cheer them up one bit.

Don't tell your spouse what they should do. Don't say things like, "Here's what I think you should do," or "Oprah always says you should..." Offering a solution makes you should like you have all the answers, and it puts your partner on the defensive.

Don't try to fix or repair your spouse's feelings. Just acknowledge them as valid. This will go a long way in the negotiation process. Stay away from things like, "You're feeling destitute? You shouldn't feel destitute" or "Just look at the bright side" or "How can you be mad? I'm the one being taken to the cleaners here." It would serve you better to simply say, "this must be hard for you."



Don't ever respond to something your spouse says with a remark like "Whatever" or "Do what you want." Nobody wants to hear a snotty or flippant retort when they are in pain.

Talk about incendiary! This is like using a flamethrower in a dry forest.

Don't fight anger with anger. Angry spouses lose negotiations. You can't lessen their anger until you can control your own. Remember "sticks and stones" from when you were a child?

Don't use words that are wolves in sheep's clothing or ask questions that are statements in disguise (e.g., "Is it okay if I splurge and buy a quarter pound of bologna on my birthday?"). This is the worst time for smart-aleck remarks or levity of any type.

Don't insert humorous remarks when your spouse is being serious. This only gives them more cause to be difficult.

Don't make statements that have the effect of proclaiming your entitlement and /or your spouse's lack of entitlement, such as, "the pension is all mine. I worked for it." Those statements are surefire troublemakers.



Don't challenge or insult your spouse or anything that they say. Sentences such as "How can you just sit there and lie?" or "maybe if you come home sober once in a while" or "Maybe if I

ever came home and found dinner on the table" will only bring you loser to an in -court battle.

Don't get hooked by your spouse's anger.

Don't propose anything to your partner until you are sure the coast is clear and they are in a decent mood.

Don't let friends or family put pressure on you to feel a certain way or tell you what your settlement position ought to be. Their intentions are good, but their knowledge of the law probably isn't.

Don't make the mistake of believing everything you think.

Don't give your partner a piece of your mind if you hope to get peace of mind.

Don't engage in self-defeating behavior such as closing or transferring accounts, hiding funds/assets, cutting off cash flow, running up charge cards, playing games with visitation, etc. This is a quick way to start a war, and even if your spouse isn't thinking about war, you just might cause one.



Don't make any negative remarks about your partner's vices, traits, propensities, habits, work tendencies, appearance, grooming, general behavior, and so on.

Don't say any of the following or similar comments at all costs:

"You've never finished anything you started."

"When is the last time you did something with the kids?"

"I don't have any fiends because you drove them all off."

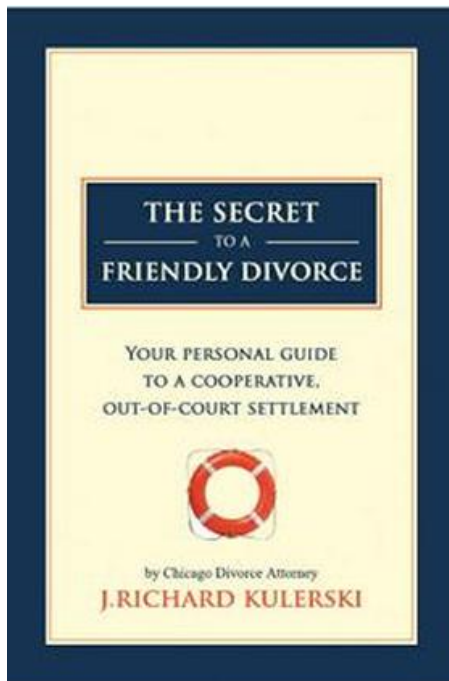
The important thing to remember when communicating with your soon to be ex is to always think about what you are going to say before you say it. Nothing should fly out of your mouth without truly considering all consequences of the words that you say.

When negotiating with your ex, emotions will naturally run high, seek to tone down the emotions by being mindful of every word that you utter.



By following this list of Don'ts you will go far in having better communication and therefore a better final settlement with your soon to be ex.

Remember to check out our other eBooklet: **Divorce Money Makers**: *The Right Things to Say and Do during Your Divorce*.



No one is pretending that divorce is easy or painless. But by keeping these tips in mind both you and your spouse will walk away feeling confident and respected, rather than humiliated and angry.

Remember, you're likely going to have contact with your spouse for many years to come, and beginning this new phase of your relationship with hurt and distrust will only lead to greater difficulties and misunderstandings down the road.

For a more in-depth look at negotiating the best possible outcome for your divorce – including tips for staying out of court and reducing those high legal fees – check out my book, [The Secret to a Friendly Divorce](#). It contains 40 years of legal experience laid out in an easy-to-read style, and provides just the advice you need in order to prosper – and even flourish – during this difficult time. [Grab your copy today, and get started building a new "happily ever after."](#)