

### PRIME LAW GROUP CAN HELP

The divorce process can be a bear, leaving the individuals involved intimidated, uncertain, and overwhelmed. At Prime Law Group we have your back. Our attorneys take a personal approach to each case. A conversation with one of our attorneys will benefit you by answering your questions and explaining your rights, obligations, and entitlements. Call Prime Law Group to sit down with one of our attorneys who will take the time to listen to you and help you understand the divorce process from beginning to end.



## THE DIVORCE TRANSITION

Attorneys to Ease your Mind & Guide you Through with Compassion, Experience & Knowledge.

# CONTACT

**Prime Law Group** 

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## Who is at Fault & When Should They Move Out

Illinois is a no-fault state. The only ground for getting a divorce in Illinois is irreconcilable differences. Illinois law requires that a couple must be "separated for six months." Though, this does not mean the couple must be physically separated though. In fact, many couples remain in the same household during much of the divorce process to save money and help transition slowly to two households. However, in cases with children it may be better to transition to two households before the divorce is finalized to practice the parenting time schedule to ensure it is workable and comfortable for the children. Each case is unique to itself.

### HOW MUCH DOES A DIVORCE COST

llinois lands on the pricier side when it comes to divorce in the United States. On average, a basic divorce costs \$13,800. If your case involves contested issues such as custody, child support, maintenance (alimony), and property division, divorces cost between \$20,000 to \$35,000. However, your divorce does not need to be so expensive. While our attorneys compassionately advocate on your behalf, we also encourage our clients to considered lesscostly options to settle contested issues such as flatfee rates for uncontested divorces, mediation, and fourway conferences (when both parties and their respective attorneys meet outside of court in an attempt to resolve issues).



#### How is Support and Maintenance Calculated

Illinois law provides formulas to calculate these two issues. Although these two calculations are most often applied, there are circumstances appropriate to deviate upward or downward from the default amounts.

Maintenance is calculated as follows: Take 33 and 1/3% of the payor's net annual income minus 25% of the payee's net annual income. However, a maintenance obligation cannot exceed 40% of the combined net income of both parties.

Support is not as straight-forward because it involves first a determination of parenting time and then uses charts to determine how much of the combined income of both parties is assumed to be spent on the children. Then that amount is used to allocate an amount of support obligation to each party on a pro rata basis of their incomes. Parents can get a good idea of guideline support by using the support calculator provided on the Illinois Healthcare and Family Services website.

