

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910739438103321
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Titolo	It's Splitsville : Surviving Your Divorce / / by James J. Gross
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, CA : , : Apress : , : Imprint : Apress, , 2013
ISBN	1-4302-5718-0 1-4302-5717-2
Edizione	[1st ed. 2013.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (295 p.)
Disciplina	306.89 346.73016
Soggetti	Divorce - Law and legislation - United States Divorce - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Introduction; Part I: Facing the Prospects of Divorce; Chapter 1: Timing; Practical Timing Considerations; States Matter: Where to Divorce If You Have a Choice; Employment: Why It's Best If Your Spouse Is Employed; Finances: What Is the Best Time to Split with Your Spouse?; Timing Issues When Your Spouse Wants You to Leave; Timing Issues When Your Spouse Leaves You; Family Finances: Can Cause Trouble When Handled by One Spouse; When Can I Start Dating?; Timing Once You Have an Agreement; If Rome Is Burning, Stop Fiddling Around; Divorce Is a Process, Not an Event; Summary Chapter 2: Things to Do NowWays to Take Charge of Finances; Bank Accounts; Stocks, Money Market Funds, Certificates of Deposit, and Brokerage Accounts; Credit Cards; Loans and Lines of Credit; Health Insurance; Life Insurance; Bills; Retirement Accounts; Snooping: How to Find Information Legally; Inventory and Safeguard Your Stuff; Collections and Other Valuables; Documents; Safe Deposit Boxes and Storage Units; Social Security; Your Will and Powers of Attorney; Domestic Violence; Find a Lawyer (and Make Your Lawyer's Job Easier); War Chest; Divorce Calendar; Divorce To Do List Divorce Notebook or FileHistory of the Marriage; Financial Statement; Summary; Chapter 3: Research and Documents; Do the Research Before You Leave; Assets (Before and After Marriage); Liabilities (Before and

After Marriage); Income; Expenses; Additional Records; Organizing Your Research; A Word About Fault and Private Investigators; Researching the Law; Where to Find the Law; Visit the Courtroom; Summary; Chapter 4: Can You Do It Yourself?; Benefits of Using a Lawyer; Costs of Using a Lawyer; Conflict; Lawyers are Expensive; Additional Litigation Costs; Knowledge Main Consideration: Simple or Complex Divorce? Uncontested Divorce; Contested Divorce; Simple Divorce; Complications; Mediation; Why You Should Mediate; Why You May Not Want to Mediate; What "No Fault" Means; Summary; Chapter 5: Finding a Lawyer; You Need a Divorce Lawyer; Word of Mouth; Internet; Experience Counts; Skills; Trust; Style; Male or Female Attorney?; Litigator or Negotiator; Phone Calls and E-mails; Fees and Retainers; How to Save Money; Summary; Chapter 6: First Meeting with Lawyer and Beyond; Before the Meeting; What to Bring to the First Meeting What You Can Expect When You Get to the Lawyer's Office Marshaling the Facts; The Proceedings; The Marriage; The Children; The Finances; Asking the Lawyer Your Questions; Know What You Want: Goals, Objectives, and Priorities; Legal Advice and Counsel; First Consultation Free! After That . . .; Don't Let Them Switch Lawyers on You; Heed Your Intuition: Fire a Bad Lawyer Fast; Summary; Chapter 7: Custody in General; How Is Custody Decided?; The Tender Years Doctrine; The Best Interests Doctrine; Custody Factors; What Are My Chances of Getting Custody?; Employing a Custody Notebook Future Custody

## Sommario/riassunto

Thinking about divorce? Already in the process of divorce? You need this book. Divorce is complex, and complications are not what you need when you are facing its emotional and financial pressures. In *It's Splitsville: Surviving Your Divorce*, veteran divorce attorney James J. Gross breaks down the divorce process for nonlawyers in easy-to-understand steps. He explains the legal system in plain and simple language, and he describes the process of obtaining a fair separation agreement and navigating family law and the legal system. Just as important, it explains the emotional hazards of divorce and how to withstand the myriad pressures you will face. *It's Splitsville: Surviving Your Divorce*: Explains divorce laws in easy-to-understand words. Guides you through the steps for obtaining a separation agreement. Provides a friendly user's manual for divorce court. Helps you and your spouse decide what's best for the children. Shows you how to protect your assets to the legal extent possible. Explains when and how to play hardball. Nearly a million people get divorced each year in the United States. Many, if not most, could be handled far better for all parties involved. *It's Splitsville: Surviving Your Divorce* will guide you safely through the hazards of divorce, show you how to understand and survive the complicated legal process, explain underhanded tactics and how to combat them, and help emerge on the other side as a stronger, wiser, and better person.