

The Real Cost of Divorce in Oklahoma

What You Need to Know

Divorce is more than an emotional decision—it's a financial one, too. If you're thinking about ending your marriage, understanding the potential costs can help you plan ahead and avoid surprises down the road.

Whether your divorce is simple or complex, the price tag depends on several key factors. This guide breaks down what goes into the cost of a divorce in Oklahoma, what to expect in different types of cases, and how to navigate expenses wisely.



What Contributes to the Cost of Divorce?



1. Contested vs. Uncontested Divorce

Uncontested Divorce: Both parties agree on all terms (property division, custody, support, etc.). These cases are usually faster, cheaper, and less stressful.

Contested Divorce: Disagreements over any key issues. These cases may involve court hearings, mediation, and extended attorney involvement.

2. Children and Custody Issues

Cases involving minor children often require additional filings, child support calculations, parenting plans, and possibly guardian ad litem or custody evaluations.

3. Asset Division

The more assets involved—homes, businesses, retirement accounts—the more complex and expensive the division process can be, especially if appraisals or financial experts are needed.

4. Spousal Support (Alimony)

Disputes over alimony can lead to more negotiation and legal strategy.

5. Court Fees & Filing Costs

Oklahoma filing fees typically range from \$180 to \$250 depending on the county and whether children are involved.

Average Divorce Costs in Oklahoma

Here's a look at the potential costs you may encounter throughout the divorce process. These ranges are approximate and will vary by complexity and county:



Attorney Retainer

\$3,000- \$5,000+



Attorney Hourly Rate

\$250+



Court Filing Fees

\$180- \$300



Mediation (if required)

\$1,500- \$2,000+



Property Appraisal

\$300-\$600+



Financial Experts

\$1,000- \$3,000+

Keep in mind, these numbers are general estimates—the total cost of your divorce will depend on your specific situation, including whether your case is contested, if children are involved, how many issues are in dispute, and the level of legal support required.

Understanding Retainers

A retainer is an upfront payment made to your attorney to begin work on your case. It's not a flat fee or the total cost—it's more like a deposit that ensures your lawyer can dedicate time and resources to your divorce.

↘ **Held in Trust**

The retainer is placed in a trust account and remains your money until your attorney earns it through work performed.

↘ **Billed as Work is Done**

Each task—consulting, document drafting, court filings—is billed against the retainer at the attorney's hourly rate.

↘ **Transparent Invoicing**

You'll receive regular statements showing what's been done and how much of the retainer remains.

↘ **Beyond the Retainer**

If the work required exceeds the initial retainer, you'll continue to be billed at the attorney's hourly rate.



What Adds to the Cost When Children Are Involved?

01

Parenting Plans

- Oklahoma courts require divorcing parents to submit a parenting plan that outlines custody, visitation, and decision-making responsibilities.
- These plans may require negotiation or mediation, particularly in contested cases.

02

Mandatory Parenting Classes

Parents with minor children are usually required to complete a court-approved parenting class. These range from \$25-\$300

03

Custody Disputes

If parents can't agree on custody or visitation, the court may order a custody evaluation, guardian ad litem, or additional court hearings—all of which increase legal fees. Custody evaluations range from \$1,000-\$3,000.

04

Child Support

- Calculated based on both parents' incomes, number of children, health insurance costs, and daycare expenses.
- In some cases, financial documentation and expert input may be needed to determine accurate income, especially for self-employed individuals or those with variable income.

How Is Child Support Calculated in Oklahoma?

Oklahoma uses an “income shares” model, which means both parents' incomes are considered to determine how much support the child would receive if the family were still together. The court then assigns each parent a share of that obligation.



You can use the Oklahoma Child Support Calculator on the Oklahoma Department of Human Services website to get an estimate tailored to your situation.

Key factors include:

- Gross monthly income of each parent
- Number of children
- Medical insurance premiums for the child
- Childcare expenses
- Parenting time (overnights with each parent)



Not Sure Where to Start?

If you're unsure what kind of divorce you'll need—or how much it might cost—talking to an attorney is the best first step. At Ball Morse Lowe, our 15-minute consultation gives you the chance to speak directly with a family law attorney about your situation.



We'll help you:



Understand what kind of divorce fits your case



Estimate potential costs and next steps



Avoid common financial pitfalls