

the meantime, you should retain an attorney who has the experience and strength to stand up for your rights. He or she may also recommend a qualified financial planner or Certified Financial Divorce Analyst (CDFA), who can help you sort through your finances, so you and your wife can reach a fair and equitable resolution.

Legal issues

My ex and I tend to adhere to our visitation schedule pretty closely. But sometimes, when I do need a little flexibility, she won't "give." What can I do?

Los Angeles divorce attorney Stacy D. Phillips, a Certified Family Law Specialist, partner in the firm Phillips, Lerner, Lauzon & Jamra, and the author of *Divorce: It's All About Control: How to Win the Emotional, Psychological, and Legal Wars*, answers this question:

"It sounds like it's time to get your best negotiation and diplomacy skills in order. Just because the marriage is over, it's important to remember that raising the children isn't. Here are some suggestions:

- **Letters**

If your ex is inflexible, try writing kind and thoughtfully-worded letters that reflect your requests. A dialogue on the subject may spark an altercation. Respectful correspondence is a great start. Remember, assertive is fine; aggressive is not.

- **Conversations**

If you do contact your spouse regarding any schedule changes by phone, or discuss the request in person, be polite and courteous at all times, especially if he or she isn't. This approach could play a major factor in getting you what you want.

- **Calendar Credits**

If letters and calm conversations don't do the job, try a bartering system. Some type of 'trade-you-this-for-that' is very effective. Issue your ex a 'credit' (put it in writing), for the time slot he



Julie Mack

Georgine Brave

Shawn Weber

"Exceeding Expectations"

DIVORCE IS ONE OF LIFE'S MOST STRESSFUL experiences, as you cope with heartbreak, anger, loss, and uncertainty. Surrounding yourself with a solid legal support system can help you move to a more positive sense of self-worth and identity.

The Family Law, Mediation, and Collaborative Law firm of Brave, Weber & Mack is well equipped to provide that support. The professionals at this downtown San Diego firm, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in April 2004, consistently show caring and empathy to their clients.

"Learning to absorb everything my clients were going through was an important lesson for me," says firm founder Georgine Brave. "Listening doesn't just happen by itself; it takes a willingness to release the distraction of rushing in with a reply."

Brave and her partners, attorney/mediators Julie Mack and Shawn Weber, are committed to providing superior service. It's this dedication — combined with attention to detail, sharp communication skills, and commitment to excellence — that sets them apart. "Our attorneys work as a team," she adds. "We keep each other informed and communicate promptly with our clients."

One key benefit of working with this firm is its mediation practice. Mediation has been proven to be a successful way to settle divorce; it encourages a win-win outcome chosen by the parties rather than imposed upon them — and saves money and time. As trained mediators, Weber and Mack offer both parties the opportunity to resolve marital issues in a confidential environment.

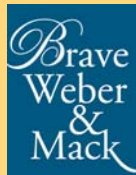
They help people negotiate and consider the pros and cons of the available options. Their ability to communicate and empathize with clients has earned them the respect of opposing attorneys and the praise of clients.

Brave, Weber & Mack also offer Collaborative Law, a relatively new approach to divorce that helps separating families resolve their differences with respect and dignity. With Collaborative Law, the participants agree to work together honestly, and in good faith, to find solutions that fit the needs of both parties and their children without litigation.

All three attorneys pride themselves on providing clients with a broad range of skills and services. Georgine Brave offers an extensive knowledge of the law, more than 20 years of courtroom experience, and strong advocacy skills. She is adept at cutting to the heart of a complicated legal issue and communicating in clear language. Julie Mack, a former social-services worker and published writer, joined the firm as an associate in 1997. Combining her background in social work with her law career, she offers clients the benefits of solid communication, strong advocacy, and compassionate support. Shawn Weber balances negotiation and strong advocacy in his work, striving at all times to exceed client expectations. He has been recognized for his strong communication skills and empathy — and the outstanding personal service he provides.

Lawyers who listen and who care: Brave, Weber and Mack will handle your divorce competently and diligently. Attentive to your concerns, they will furnish you with accurate information and top-notch skills to accomplish your goals. Brave sums up the firm's philosophy in these words: "We're always willing to go that extra mile for our clients."

For a free initial consultation, please contact:



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