

Children with Disabilities & Divorce Divorce Coach & Attorney Perspectives

Mary Ann Hughes Certified Special Needs Divorce Coach



Mike Day, Attorney Board Certified in Family Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Special Needs Divorce Expert

- Mom of Sons on Autism Spectrum
- Founder of Special Family Transitions
- Certified Special Needs Divorce Coach
- Mediator, Parenting Coordinator, Arbitrator
- Co-Director of NADP Special Needs Chapter
- Featured expert on podcasts, magazines, and events www.SpecialFamilyTransitions.com

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Navigating Divorce

- Phase 1: Preparation
- Phase 2: Filing & Temporary Orders
- Phase 3: Coming to Resolution
- Phase 4: Post Divorce



Case Studies

- -Jill & John have a 6 year old medically complex child Jane, amicable situation
- -Donna & David have an 18 year old autistic child Drew, high conflict situation

I. Preparation: Thinking About the Process

- Understanding your ultimate goals
- Consulting with a Divorce Coach
- Choosing an Attorney



II. Filing/Temporary Orders

- Living with the changes
- How to best prepare
- Questions to ask your coach and attorney
- See if the temporary orders/situation is a good fit going forward



III. Coming to Resolution

- Mediation
- Understanding the Spreadsheet
- Understanding your children's needs
- Questions to ask the Coach and the Attorney



IV. Post-Divorce

- I didn't do this in the divorce, is it too late?
- Things to look for in terms of child support and possession and access

Supporting Children through Process:

- Prepare and Ease into Transitions
- Social Story
- Calendar
- Keep kids out of conflict
- Resources to help to cope and adjust



Thank you - Please reach out if we can help!

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