

# The Enos Law Firm, P.C.

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*"Helping families through tough times"*

## Client Survival Guide

You can survive your case emotionally and financially if you follow these basic rules:

- 1. Be nice, do not be a jerk.**
  - Imagine a judge is watching you 24 hours a day. Act like a good person would and be nice because it is the right thing to do and because a judge may hear about your behavior.
  - Mean or rude behavior is not right and will hurt you in court. It also makes it harder to settle your case.
  - **In cases involving children, your most important job is to be a good parent.**
- 2. Make smart decisions. Do not act based on emotion or anger.**
- 3. Be completely honest with your attorney and cooperate with your attorney.**
  - Your attorney needs to know everything about the case, including negative or embarrassing information about you. Do not let your attorney be surprised in court by information about you that makes you look bad.
  - Do not pester your attorney with a zillion phone calls that are not important but do share information about important new developments.
  - Let your attorney know immediately if you change jobs or move or get a new cell or home phone number.
- 4. Obey court orders and promptly comply with requests for information.**
  - Carefully study your court orders, understand them and obey them.
  - Provide information or documents as quickly as you can when requested by your attorney.
- 5. Be careful about what you do and say.**
  - What you and your attorney talk about and write each other about is confidential. Do not share that information with the other side or with anyone you do not completely trust.
  - Do not send angry or emotional letters, cards, text messages or e-mails to the other side now that you are involved in a case with each other. Short, to-the-point communications about money or the kids are okay if needed. Remember, anything you say or write to the other side can be used against you!
  - Do not yell at or curse at the other parent or argue in front of the children.

*The Enos Law Firm serves families in Galveston, Brazoria & Harris counties, Texas*

**Greg Enos is Board Certified in Family Law**

by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Other attorneys not board certified.

TOPIC	DO	DO NOT
<b>Lifestyle &amp; Behavior</b>	Be nice.	Do not be a jerk.
	Keep a diary or mark on a calendar to record events.	In divorce cases, do not allow new boyfriends or girlfriends around the children until the case is over. If you must date before you are divorced, be discreet and do not let your spouse know. Do not spend a lot of money on dates or gifts during a divorce.
	It is usually a good idea for you to see a counselor or psychologist for help during this difficult time. Just remember, what you say could be disclosed in court.	Avoid arguments or screaming matches with your spouse or ex-spouse. If things get wild, just leave or hang up.  If your spouse can be violent or might accuse you of something, avoid them or take another person with you when you must be around him or her.
	It is legal to tape record your phone calls with your spouse or ex-spouse and you do not have to say you are doing so in Texas.	Do not record calls between other people or record your kids talking to the other parent. That is illegal.
<b>Money and property</b>	Keep all financial records, including bank and credit card statements.	Do not throw away bank or credit card statements.
	Do help your attorney by making a list of all of your property and what it is worth.	Do not spend money on anything other than necessary living or business expenses or attorney's fees.
	Do remember that the goal is to reach a fair settlement, not to fight and waste money on attorney fees.	In divorces, do not cancel insurance or destroy, give away or sell property and do not make withdrawals from IRA's or 401K's.
<b>Children</b>	Do cooperate with the other parent and go along with reasonable requests. Share information, schedules and report cards.	Never say negative things about the other parent in front of the kids or allow anyone else to do so.
	Do let the child know that the divorce or custody case is <u>not</u> the child's fault.	In most cases, do not let the child call a step-parent "mom" or "dad"
	Do be involved in school and medical issues regardless of which parent has primary custody or visitation rights.	Do not discuss the pending case with your child. <u>Limited</u> discussions with older teenagers might be okay.
	Continue to communicate with the other parent about your child but do not send emotional or angry texts or e-mails.	Do not use your child to communicate with the other parent.
	<b>Be a good, smart parent!</b>	Do not argue in front of the kids.
	Send your child to the other parent with the clothes and toys the child needs or wants and return the child with what he or she brought to your house.	While a court case is going on, spanking your child is not a good idea.

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