



Karen Chellew

As the saying goes, “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.” According to the Holmes and Rahe Stress Scale, divorce is second on the list of the 43 life-changing events that affect your health. I remember this well. At 29, having survived 10 years of a rocky marriage with two small children in tow, divorce was not easy or desired, yet I found myself needing to make the decision to move out, find another place to live, and start down the long, challenging road of divorce.

Working as a legal secretary, I had access to the best attorneys available, yet, looking back, I realize that I lacked the appropriate emotional and financial advice. I lived with the anxiety and stress of needing to make life-altering decisions every day as it related to not only my well-being but the well-being of my children and their futures. I didn’t know where to turn for guidance and was at the mercy of my ex-husband and the attorneys involved. Even though I had great attorneys, they could only respond to my directions and the Court’s decisions. Somehow, I had to figure it out and make the best decisions I could with the information I had.

Twenty years later, I realize that we can be better, and we can do better. I know now how helpful it is if you have a financial planner who understands divorce and an advisor who can help you navigate the legal process. I realize how critical it is to have a therapist who is there when the days are dark and the emotions are high. When you have a team of support behind you, life can be a little easier and a little less stressful, and the way ahead doesn’t seem so endless. The best part is: this process can save you money because all of the support is focused on you, your well-being, and your wallet!

As the mom of three amazing children and one granddaughter, I am passionate about helping women. For 30 years, I have worked in a law office as a paralegal and a business manager. Recently, I started a women’s organization called Sisters U, which is focused on helping women become their best selves. I am here to help you navigate your divorce with confidence while preserving the dignity and importance of the family unit.

Certified as a QDRO Administrator, Karen Chellew is also a member of the Association of Legal Administrators and an affiliated member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. In addition, she is a member of the East Rockhill Township Board of Auditors and is president-elect of the Independence Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators.



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What’s most important to me is that you are able to move forward with confidence in the financial decisions you make while transitioning to this next phase of your life. My motto is: “Make the rest of your life the best of your life.”

And you can. I know firsthand what it’s like to feel like you’re in this all alone. Divorce is a scary process, a rocky road with a lot of unknowns. Throughout the course of my divorce, I thought, “Where can I go to find out what I don’t know, to just get some information without starting the legal process? How do I know what to do next?” Everybody—friends, family—they all have different opinions, but they don’t share your exact experience. Situations can be similar, but everyone is entitled to their own process at their own pace.

After 25 years in the financial industry, having raised five children and endured my own experience with divorce, I became a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst and trained mediator. I founded CSM Divorce Solutions to provide a place where women could go to be heard, to release the emotions of this tumultuous time, and to have their financial portraits explained to them in order to start moving forward with a plan.

It’s a few years later, and I’ve realized there is even more information that can help women through the divorce process. Knowing where to start to put together your divorce team. Knowing that you need a divorce team. Finding the right attorney. Learning how to budget your support and manage finances after the divorce. All of this and more have led me to this current chapter, partnering with Karen Chellew to form Divorce U Solutions, LLC.

Karen shares my passion for helping women through the divorce process, and, with her added expertise in the legal field, we now provide all of the services I’d hoped for when I was going through my divorce.

When it’s all said and done, I do believe in marriage. I also believe in living happily. Things may be different but #UwillbeOK!

Catherine Shanahan earned a B.S. in Accounting from Clarion University. A Certified Divorce Financial Analyst and trained mediator, she is a member of the Bucks County Collaborative Law Group, Administrative Active Daily Money Management (AADMM), the Institute for Divorce Financial Analysts (IDFA), the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO), and the Association of Divorce Financial Planners (ADFP). She serves on the boards of Sisters U, PWBN, and Delta Zeta. She splits her time in Bucks County, Pennsylvania and Hilton Head, SC and enjoys golfing, spending time with family and friends, and empowering women to be their best.

“God doesn’t have feet or hands on this earth, but he has women like you to help a woman like me.”

“I feel so much better, and I’ve only talked to you for an hour.”

“I wish I met you years ago.”

“Finally, someone is finally giving me a solution so that I can move on. Thank you!”

“It’s so nice to talk to someone who understands. Thank you for helping me to understand a little better too.”

“Attending your divorce workshop was inspiring, and I just want to thank you for sharing your advice, knowledge, and personal stories.”

“I never knew there was someone that does what you do. Your services are so needed, and I’m so happy I met you.”



During your one-hour consultation, we’ll do a full intake and assessment of your relationship with your spouse, your financial portrait, and your unique situation.

After this assessment, we discuss whether you are a candidate for mediation, collaborative law, or litigation. Depending on your situation, you may be a candidate for one or more options.

Next, we consult with you regarding the process of divorce and assist you in getting the right documentation together. We’ll also ask you critical questions that will need to be addressed during this challenging time, so you can be prepared for what’s to come. Many of the questions we’ll ask may be regarding topics you may not have even considered as important or relevant to the divorce process.

You’ll leave this consultation with an understanding of the difference between “fair” and “equitable” that will help you gain awareness of the long-term outcome of decisions you make throughout this process. The goal of this consultation is to inform you of what you need to know to make smart decisions that enhance your emotional and financial well-being during and after the divorce process.

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