

## Women Helping Women



**CATHERINE SHANAHAN,**  
CDFA



**KAREN CHELLEW**

By Catherine Shanahan  
and Karen Chellew,  
Co-Founders of Divorce  
U Solutions, LLC

As many people who are or who have experienced divorce know, the journey through a divorce can be stressful and overwhelming.

At Divorce U Solutions, we try to show our clients the way.

**Catherine:**  
“We both believe in marriage. We are not sitting here running up the divorce flag. We just want people to be happy. We’re all about empowering people to be able to make choices themselves.”

We have both gone through divorces, and we are passionate about our mission to empower women to walk through their own divorces being informed and confident.

**Karen:**  
“I was married at the age of 19, and learned the hard (expensive) way that, without the right help, divorce can be financially and emotionally costly. I spent an incredible amount of money because I didn’t know any better. Throughout my divorce, I spent nearly \$35,000, and it took 10 years to finalize. Even with my background and access to the best attorneys, I still paid the price. Looking back, I wish I had someone in my life to say, ‘Look, get yourself together. You need to know these things, this is how it works, this is what you

can expect, this is how you talk to your kids.’ As a trained paralegal and QDRO Administrator, I am committed to assisting clients through this very difficult and emotional process.”

**Catherine:**  
“I remember the fear involved. When I decided to get a divorce, I just remember being really scared. I just cried every day. My divorce was just finalized 5 years ago. I am a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst (CDFA), trained mediator, and a Certified Daily Money Manager. I capitalized on my education and experience working in the financial industry by deciding that I would devote my career to helping others going through divorce. There are so many women who are feeling this alone, and we’ve got to help them. This is my calling. I cannot ignore it. This is what I am supposed to do.”

“After a year of developing my own business, I joined forces with Karen, and, since then, we’ve walked hundreds of clients through the divorce process. Our business has been a bit challenging to market. Most of our business has come from personal and professional referrals. We’ve also found success with hosting workshops and other meetups in the community.”

**Karen:**  
“So, let’s go over how it works. The initial consultation fee is \$190. During this time, a potential client will know where they are in the divorce process;

they will understand the 4 ways to get divorced and what their options are moving forward. We help them understand and know how to prepare for this major life event. We are not attorneys, and we cannot give legal advice. Upon leaving our office, they feel confident about their next steps.”

“Next steps are different for everyone, but we most often hear as our client walks out the door, ‘I feel so much better. I came in feeling overwhelmed, stressed and scared, and now I know I will be ok.’ The consult fee covers an hour, but we spend the time necessary with any new client getting them to that point where they are confident as to their next steps. If a client retains us for financial assessment, lifestyle analysis or mediation, we work on a flat-fee basis. We believe that one of the biggest hurdles of attorney representation is that of the billable hour, and we have committed ourselves to a different and better way to represent clients.”

**Catherine:**  
“We do not call a client after they initially meet with us, unless they expressly request that we do so. We wait for them to come to their own decision about their own marriage and when they would be ready to proceed. It doesn’t always lead to divorce. Sometimes, we recommend our clients seek marriage counseling or financial counseling prior to making additional decisions.”

A majority of Divorce U clients are women and couples, and here’s what some have said: “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.”

**Karen:**  
“To respond to the incredible need for assistance in demystifying the divorce process, we have developed a revolutionary online course.

Consider this your Divorce Prep Course. This experience will empower you through the entire process

of divorce. Upon completion, you’ll have realistic financial objectives, and you’ll know what to expect before, during, and after divorce. You’ll be prepared to meet with an attorney or mediator and clearly express what you want regarding assets, alimony, child support, and custody. The Divorce U Online Course provides you with the information and guidance you need to save time, money, and stress.”

### Course Highlights

11 video lessons. 2.5 total hours in 12- to 15-minute increments. Self-paced. Private.

Included with the lessons are 15 worksheets, guides, and financial planning tools. For more information, please visit [www.divorceusolutions.com/onlinecourse](http://www.divorceusolutions.com/onlinecourse)

DIVORCE SOLUTIONS

## REVOLUTIONARY Divorce Prep Course

**CATHERINE SHANAHAN & KAREN CHELLEW**

Co-Founders

---

**Assess Your Needs | Develop Your Plan  
Financial and Emotional Guidance**

**Online Course Features:**

- 11 video lessons, 2.5 total hours in 12-15 min. increments
- Self-paced and private
- 15 supplemental guides, financial worksheets & tools

---

**Catherine Shanahan:** Certified Financial Divorce Analyst (CDFA), Professional Daily Money Manager (PDMM), Trained Mediator  
**Karen Chellew:** Experienced Paralegal, QDRO Administrator

[www.divorceusolutions.com/onlinecourse](http://www.divorceusolutions.com/onlinecourse)