

Rands with Sense

DIY Divorces

- If you are in a civil marriage, there is **no such thing as an entirely 'free divorce'**. There are some costs to pay. However, if you do handle your own uncontested divorce, you need to only pay a very small amount.
- An **uncontested divorce** means that you and your spouse are in agreement. Things you need to agree on are for instance, to divorce each other, how you are dividing debt, property and assets and importantly, to agree on child custody and maintenance, if you have children.
- There are many **websites on the Internet that offer guidance** and documents to people interested in DIY divorces for a small fee. They will provide you with a summons and other documents to fill in and then to hand into court (www.diydivorce.co.za). Other than that, you will **need your South African ID and your marriage certificate**.
- If you and your spouse have agreed on all the terms, then a **divorce settlement document**, signed by both of you in front of witnesses, has to be attached to the summons before you hand it in to court.
- Finally, even though you conduct your own divorce, **you need not face it alone**. There are many organisations employing qualified people who can help you. Try Families South Africa (FAMSA).
- With all the technology and information at our disposal, there is no reason any longer not to be able to take control of your own situation.

