

Californians Save \$1.3 BILLION in Legal Fees

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How to Do Your Own Divorce in California in 2014

An essential guide for every kind of divorce, 37th Ed.

by Ed Sherman, Divorce Specialist Attorney

ISBN 978-0-944508-92-3, 248 pages, trade paper, \$29.95

If you had told attorney Ed Sherman in 1971, when he wrote the first edition of *How to Do Your Own Divorce in California*, that 43 years later his book would be responsible for having saved Californians more than one billion dollars in legal fees, he would not have believed you.

Yet with the release of the 37th edition of this ground-breaking book in February 2014, there were already 900,000 copies in print. If you figure it conservatively as 900,000 divorces with a bare minimum attorney fee of \$1,500 each, Sherman has saved Californians at least \$1.3 billion in legal fees!

Considering that most California libraries carry Sherman's books, allowing many readers to use the same copy, more than one million people have successfully done their own divorce using *How to Do Your Own Divorce in California*.

Sherman originally wrote the book after serving as Senior Attorney for Contra Costa County Legal Services in the late 1960s. He became frustrated with a legal system that failed to serve the many people who were not poor enough to qualify for free services, but were certainly too poor to hire an attorney.

In 1970, Sherman left Legal Services, started a private practice in Berkeley, and contemplated how the legal system could better serve the public. After founding Nolo Press to publish his first book, Sherman went on to write several other do-it-yourself law books, thus founding the thriving self-help law movement.

Sherman also founded a whole new

profession. In 1973, he trained 18 people as "divorce consultants" to act as legal secretaries for the public. They became known as "independent paralegals," or "Legal Document Assistants" as they must now by law be called. There are more than one thousand of them now active in California.

Sherman has updated the 37th edition of *How to Do Your Own Divorce in California* with seven new forms and changes in procedures. The laws are constantly changing, so the book gets updated every year.

California legislative changes go into effect every January and July, so any changes that occur after the book is printed each year are posted on the Alerts page of Sherman's website at www.NoloDivorce.com/alerts/index.html.

The 37th edition of the book contains all the current forms, along with updated demo versions of Sherman's CalSupport and DealMaker software programs, as electronic files on a CD that is included with the book. This allows people the convenience of filling out and printing the forms from their computer.

Not only do readers learn to understand the rules and procedures of divorce, they also get practical advice and step-by-step instructions. Perhaps most importantly the book allows readers to take control of one of life's toughest passages—instead of being at the mercy of a legal system that tends to make things worse instead of better. Being able to go through a divorce with the least possible amount of financial and emotional cost is priceless. This is the true value of Ed Sherman's book.