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5 LESSONS FROM CELEBRITIES ABOUT DIVORCE

Celebrities are still human beings (mostly). This means we can learn a great deal from their public divorces and custody battles. The lives of celebrities appear glamorous, but with the glamor comes public scrutiny. The public eye is nosy. Yes, the public shares the good days, but they are also there to capture and memorialize the bad days. The mistakes most of us get to make in private, they make on the front page.

How different is that from a messy divorce in your community? Depends who you are, who you divorce, and who is watching. Ultimately, celebrities have more eyes on them and more money to spend, but the emotional chaos and red flags are similar across the human experience, regardless of your celebrity status.

The five tips below seem to be as true for (favorite celebrity name here) as they are for you. Why? Because we are all human and the problems leading to divorce are usually about more than money and fame. So, what can we learn?

1. Cell Phones

The prevalence of cell phones has been a game-changer when it comes to divorce. Skip back 20-30 years when handheld cameras were only beginning and it wasn't as big of a problem.



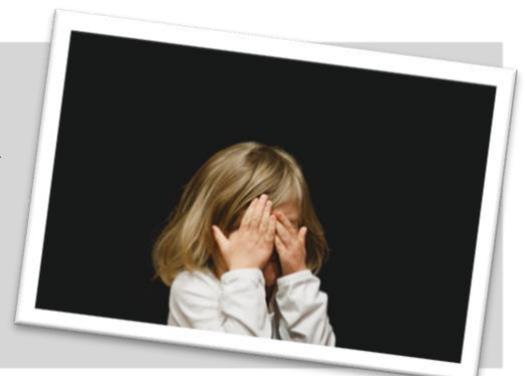
Now, even children know how to operate high-tech devices that can catch some deviant acts. Nearly every cell phone comes equipped with a camera and recording device. For celebrities, this means anyone could be recording your every move at any time. Same goes for you.

Cell phones and laptops are also able to store data that can be used against you in your divorce case. Parties may ask for internet history, usernames, and purchase history.

The lesson: Be wise. Assume anything you store in your cell phone can be accessed by the other party. Also assume your actions are being watched by opposing parties and act accordingly.

Celebrity Divorce Rate

The Marriage Foundation reported in 2016 the average divorce rate of Hollywood celebrities is 52%, which is 2 times higher than the general population.



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2. Social Media: Imagine having a world where you can say anything you are thinking the moment you manifest it. That is not difficult to do, as that is the very essence of social media. Celebrities and individuals alike are using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and dating sites. What people are quickly learning is that once it is put out there, anyone can "screen shot it" even after a delete. Social media is a center point for connection and sharing of ideas. Similarly, Social media is being used in many divorce cases to prove wrongdoing.

The lesson: Keep your profile on private and be careful who you share your life with online. Once you put it out there, you cannot always take it back.

3. Public Records: Unless a court record is sealed, almost anything done in court is public record. This means divorces, protection orders, criminal activities, and speeding tickets. If the paparazzi can get copies of affidavits, so can your children, nosy neighbor, or employer.

The lesson: your private life is not private when you involve the court system.

4. Children: Whether it is a celebrity or the next-door neighbor, divorce is hard on kids. The family unit they have grown up with is now dividing in a way they may not be able to understand. Even the most pleasant of divorces are hard on children. Keep them sheltered from the chaos as much as possible. A happy and peaceful household is preferable to one full of fights and anger, that transition is hard. This also means dating after divorce should be sheltered from your children. Especially when children are young as Judges tend to be critical of immediate relationships.

The lesson: Divorce is a different experience for children. Be cognizant of how your children handle it.

5. Divorce Sucks: Celebrities sometimes seem immortal, but their experiences are very real and very public. One thing is true, divorce sucks for everyone. No one looks back on a divorce and says, "that was fun!" A common headline in today's media shows that one spouse is surprised by the divorce filing. This is not unique to celebrities and can something that unities all of us.

The lesson: The emotional experiences vary case to case, but it is all emotional chaos.

What seems to complicate celebrity relationships more so than noncelebrities? Is it money? Public exposure? Personality types? I don't know the answer. But I do know that one thing is true: the emotional effects of divorce and its effects on children are universal.

Interested in discussing the five lessons above and how they fit into your divorce? Call us at 605-777-1772. We understand emotional chaos and are here to guide you through the process.

**This article is only intended to give general information and not specific legal advice. Consult with an attorney on your situation before taking any legal action.*