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# THE ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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“ GETTING GOOD ADVICE UPFRONT FROM A REPUTABLE ATTORNEY COULD SPARE YOU A LOT OF TIME AND MONEY DOWN THE ROAD. ”



## Q&A

# DEREK BRADFORD & MITCH GORDON

*BRADFORD & GORDON LLC, FAMILY LAW ATTORNEYS*

**Q: What's the most important thing women should know about divorce?**

**A:** DEREK: There's no denying that divorce is temporarily uncomfortable, but staying in an unhappy or toxic marriage "for the kids" or "for appearances" is unsustainable.

**Q: What kind of challenges do working women face when it comes to divorce, especially women who are the primary breadwinners?**

**A:** MITCH: Unfortunately, statistics indicate that the divorce rate is higher among couples in which the woman is the primary earner. In my experience these women are often handling most of the parenting and/or household responsibilities on top of their busy careers - inequity of responsibilities at home is bound to stress the relationship. Maintenance (formerly known as alimony) is always a big concern, but breadwinning women should remember that alimony is intended to provide for a spouse who cannot support himself, not a spouse who won't support himself.

**Q: What about stay-at-home moms?**

**A:** DEREK: I've known too many stay-at-home moms who are afraid to leave their husband because he's threatened to "take the kids" and "leave her with nothing." But as the law sees it, if a couple decides during the marriage that the best option is for Mom to care for the home and the children, then that is still the best option after the marriage. As for finances, the current statute provides that everyone has an obligation to attempt to become financially independent. Most moms will have to find employment eventually. But for families who have the means, maintenance can give moms more time to stay home with their kids.

**Q: What piece of advice would you give to a friend who was considering divorce?**

**A:** MITCH: When it comes to divorce, most people only know what they've seen on TV and what they've heard through gossip. Rarely is this good information. If you're thinking about divorce, schedule a consultation with a divorce attorney - reputable attorneys provide these free of charge. Getting good advice upfront could spare you a lot of time and money down the road.

### CONTACT

BRADFORD & GORDON, LLC  
30 N. LASALLE, STE. 3100, CHICAGO, IL 60602  
312.346.6911  
BRADFORDANDGORDON.COM