

# Top-Rated Divorce Attorney in Utah

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We understand how difficult and stressful it can be when you are going through a divorce ***It's important to hire a compassionate and skilled divorce attorney with years of successful experience in divorce to guide you through the process, saving you both time and money.***

Attorney David Pedrazas is an SLC, Utah divorce attorney who has been in practice for over 20 years and knows what needs to be done to make sure you get the best representation possible. David Pedrazas understands how much is at stake for you and your family and works to pursue a swift and effective resolution to your case. At the Law Office of David Pedrazas, we handle family law cases like divorces, paternity claims, child support, child custody, and many more.

**If you are looking for the top divorce lawyer in Utah, schedule a consultation with us today.**

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[Call the Law Office of David Pedrazas](http://www.lawofficeofpedrazas.com)

## **Attorney David Pedrazas Will Protect Your Rights**

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We work to make sure your rights are fully protected. A divorce or family custody issue can be difficult for everyone involved. ***Our goal is to find the best solution possible that involves securing your rights as well as making sure your children are taken care of.*** It's important that both the rights of the children and the rights of the parents are taken into consideration when finding an amicable solution. No divorce is easy, so we do the best we can to make sure everyone is treated as fairly as possible.

## Handling High-End Divorces

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High-end divorces that include large amounts of property or assets can be a challenge. ***We strive to make sure you are treated as fairly as possible and get everything that you rightfully deserve.*** We go to great lengths to ensure that both parties involved in the divorce understand Utah's laws when it comes to the fair division of the marital assets. By enforcing Utah's mandatory mediation requirement, our goal is to thoroughly evaluate both assets and liabilities to determine the fairest division possible.

## How We Can Assist You

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We manage the full scope of family law, including child support, paternity claims, child custody, along with most claims that come up in divorce settlements. We have the knowledge and experience to help you with all of your divorce and family law related matters, including but not limited to:

- Alimony
- Adoption
- Asset Division
- Debt Division
- Domestic Violence
- Child Custody
- Child Support
- Back Child Support
- Parenting Plans
- Paternity

## Divorce and Other Factors

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In the heat of a divorce, the children often suffer the most. If the divorcing spouses have underage children, child custody and child support will need to be determined. We make sure that the health and well-being of your children are always made the first priority. ***We will always strive to maintain the best interest of the children at all costs.*** It's important that both parents take into consideration the needs of their children when determining both child support and custody/visitation agreements. Children should never be used as pawns. That is why we do our best with every case to employ every avenue possible to make sure the children's needs are met in each and that both parents are treated as fairly as possible.

## Child Custody

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If the divorcing spouses have underage children, child custody and child support will need to be determined. ***Child custody is decided by the court applying what is referred to as a "best-interest" evaluation.*** The result is supposed to be the best situation for the child involved in a divorced family. The court then has the option to

apply sole custody, joint custody, or split custody. Legal sole or joint custody affects major decisions in a child's life from medical treatment to education. Physical sole or joint custody refers to the actual physical care of the child. The default for Utah courts will start with joint custody, but there is no guarantee that will stick once arguments start.

## **Child Support**

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Child support in Utah is automatically applied in a divorce, and the values are determined by applying the parent's income into a statutory table created by Utah's legislature. This produces a starting point that the court can then adjust further based on case arguments. In many cases, the Utah court stick with the legislative model, but again the scale table is not a guaranteed result for the parties divorcing.

## **Alimony**

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Where the court deems it appropriate, alimony can be ordered. This requirement is most commonly applied in divorces where the marriage has lasted longer than 10 years and there is a clear dependence by one spouse on the other for financial support. Despite the myth of a divorce cause being a big factor, the Utah courts tend to look at the economic ability of each spouse and the ability to earn income. From there the court then applies an alimony requirement, which could last the duration of how long the marriage lasted.

## **Division of Assets & Debts**

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The separation of the property starts with the premise that anything gained during the marriage is marital property and fair game. While prior property and inherited assets may be exempt if they are co-mingled with marital property than those items become part of the mix as well. While the court can arbitrarily determine a division, that usually only occurs when one of the spouses committed fraud, lied to the court to hide assets, or prematurely spent down the estate to spite the other spouse. Without any particular factor, marital property is expected to be split evenly between spouses. However, it's also very common for arguments to occur arguing differently, which could sway the court. Notably, debt is split evenly as well, but the court could use debt to even out alimony or asset division by obligating one spouse with more debt to service.

## **Rights Have to be Proactively Defended**

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Everyone who comes to the court system for a divorce has rights they can use to protect their side of the issue. However, the court system is based on an adversarial system. So, if a party involved doesn't raise the issue of their rights proactively, they don't get protected in the process. Again, this is why experience is so critical. A trained attorney who understands when and how rights need to be asserted can protect a client's career, family rights, assets, and future far more effectively than one still learning the process themselves.



## How to Begin the Divorce Process in Salt Lake City, Utah

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***To begin the process, we help you with preparing your petition to divorce and filing the documents in the family law court.*** The respondent to the divorce is then served with the documents and must file a response within 20 days; otherwise, the court may award a default judgment in favor of the petitioner, granting all the terms requested in the petition. If the respondent agrees to the terms of the petition, the divorce may proceed uncontested by filing a stipulation. In the event that the respondent chooses to contest the divorce, the case will move forward toward a trial.

***In cases where you can't reach an initial agreement in either an uncontested or contested divorce, the court orders the parties to attend mediation prior to any trial,*** in an attempt to resolve the divorce without the necessity of litigation. Whether the case is resolved at this point or if the spouses have already worked to negotiate an out-of-court settlement, there is a 90-day waiting period between the date when the petition is filed and when the final decree is signed by the judge. In the event that the case goes to trial, each party will have the opportunity to introduce evidence and witnesses and to cross-examine the evidence and testimony of the opposition, and the judge will issue a final ruling to determine the disposition of the various issues in the divorce.

***If there are children involved, the parents are required to attend a divorce education class.*** Either party may request temporary orders concerning child custody, child support, parent time, possession of the shared home, financial responsibility for debts and other matters to provide stability to the situation while waiting for the completion of the divorce. Going through a divorce alone can be far more expensive, and it can lead to lasting

problems. The divorce process in the Utah court system is highly technical. While the initial part might seem straightforward when filing the beginning paperwork for dissolution, things can get very complex quickly.

## Why Choose Attorney David Pedrazas?

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We know family separation and divorce are extremely difficult, unwanted experiences. We strive to give you the best representation legally and help you get past divorce effectively. We have a deep understanding of Utah divorce law and how it will apply to your case, as well as what you need to do to prepare correctly for a divorce filing. Don't go into a legal minefield blind with any divorce lawyer Utah resource; the Law Offices of David Pedrazas is ready to fight for you and get you through one of the hardest parts of modern family life.

**If you are seeking a Divorce Lawyer in Utah, call The Law Offices of David Pedrazas to make an appointment today.**

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[Contact Us!](#)

## Top-Rated Divorce Attorney in Utah Will Fight For You

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Dealing with family issues can be difficult, but ***it's important to have an attorney on your side who knows the laws in Utah and how to get things done so that your rights remain protected.*** If you are a Utah resident and are in need of a family law attorney, don't risk losing your case by hiring the wrong attorney. Salt Lake City, Utah Divorce Attorney David Pedrazas has a proven track record of being successful and protecting his client's rights. With ***over 20 years of experience, he has the resources and the knowledge to provide the most aggressive and responsible representation possible.*** Whether you are involved in a contested or uncontested divorce, contact our firm now at 801-263-7078 for a **Legal Case Review** to discuss your concerns and allow us to begin working on a strategy for you!

**Service Area for Divorce Attorney David Pedrazas:**

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- Salt Lake City, Utah

**RECORDS YOU SHOULD HAVE  
WHEN FILING FOR DIVORCE**

**PROPERTY RECORDS**

- Mortgages, Loans & Credit Card Statements
- Business Financial Statements
- Real Estate Deeds, Contracts & Leases

**FINANCIAL RECORDS**

- Tax Returns & Bank Statements
- Payroll Statements & Pay Stubs
- Insurance Policies & Retirement Plans

**PERSONAL RECORDS**

- Birth Certificates
- Social Security Cards
- Separation & Prenuptial Agreements

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#### Local Points of Interest

9th and 9th  
The Avenues  
Ballpark  
Bonneville Hills  
Capitol Hill  
Central City  
Downtown  
East Central  
Fairpark  
Federal Heights  
Foothill  
Liberty Wells  
Marmalade District  
Fraternity Park  
Popular Grove



Rose Park  
Sugar House  
South Salt Lake  
University  
Westpointe  
Yalecrest  
Yalecrest Park  
Yalecroft  
Highland Park  
Wasatch Hollow  
Whitehead  
Arcadia Heights  
Bonneville Hills  
Yuma View  
Wood Hollow  
Avondale  
Arlington Hills  
Oakley Park  
Yalecroft  
West Grand View  
West Salt Lake City  
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