

The Guide to Good DivorceSM: Securing a Strong Future & Considering a Special Needs Child: Erica

I think we'd been married about seven years. We had some challenges because my husband is from another country, so we did have some cultural differences and challenges early on, and he's also a high-level executive, so he traveled like 70% of the year. And then we had a child, and it was pretty obvious early on that he had some elevated needs. And so, by six months old, he was seeing a neurologist getting therapies, services, he had brain surgery at six months old.

You know, probably seven years in, the marriage kind of imploded. One of my dad's friends gave me the name of an attorney, and that's who I went with. And so he was my attorney for about a year, but I didn't know anything about my case. When I called the office, he was unavailable. When I called the paralegal, she never had answers to questions, and I just got really, really frustrated. I had reached out to an old friend on Facebook, and she mentioned Trey Yates had just helped her, and her team of attorneys finalized her divorce.

She told me to sign up for the workshop and just see, you know, how I felt about it. He was very empowering and equipping us with knowledge. So after I saw that workshop, I came in here to the conference room, and the entire table was filled with my life. He had every single motion, every single filing. He knew more about my case than I did, because my attorney had never told me the outcomes of some of these things. And what I loved most about our first encounter was he really let me use that hour to just talk to him. And I was explaining how confused I was. I didn't know where things stood. I didn't understand a lot of these processes. And he validated what I felt. He didn't, kind of, brush me off, and he jumped right into my case and you know, powered through it, and I had a successful outcome.

Our son is a level three autism, and so he's going to need self-support indefinitely. So, Trey and his team were - my son's name is Asher, I would say they were Asherologists. They studied him thoroughly and completely. They knew every medical diagnosis, the

symptomology, what therapies were needed, why it was important that dad took our child to these therapies, what would happen if he didn't go to these therapies. They made sure that some of that language was included in our mediated settlement agreement, so that as my son ages, we don't ever have to worry about a disruption in his services or his care or in any of the recommendations from his care team. And, you know, at this point now, I feel like the Trey Yates firm is a part of my son's care team because, I mean, they're responsible for giving us the start at this next chapter in our life.

The Guide to Good DivorceSM seminar was imperative in the steps that I made going forward because it showed me how naive I was in the marriage. One of the key points was just the financial aspects. And I had just blindly trusted my ex-husband. I didn't know even what our mortgage payment was. I didn't know anything about any of our finances. I put all of that in his hands. And so, it really helped shine a light on, you know, my blind spots and my areas of weaknesses.

Also, the self-care component, especially when you have a child with disabilities. I was like on autopilot for so many years. I mean, our son didn't sleep through the night until he was probably like six years old, five or six years old. So I was operating on no sleep. I was always putting his needs first. And so, I learned I can't pour from an empty cup.

And, you know, just being in that experience, it helped me realize that I needed to kind of take more control over my professional life and that bore a new business for me. And, you know, fast forward three years, I'm a part of the single moms ministry at my church. And so we have small group meetings where we empower and lift each other up and, you know, just help remind you of the beauty that there still is in life after divorce.

Honestly, the seminar and Trey's firm, you know, they were the stepping stone of me moving forward into this next phase of my life. And I can't thank him enough for how he's changed my life and my son's life.