

Mexican Divorce...A Real Alternative for New Yorkers

As long as anyone can recall New Yorkers by the thousands have looked to Mexico when their marriages have failed. For many years it was the highly restrictive divorce laws in our state (there was only one cause available for divorce) that led people to turn south for their divorces

The first serious challenge to the Mexican divorce came in 1965. Felix Kaufman had obtained a Mexican divorce against his wife in 1954. Both he and his wife subsequently married other people, still living in New York. In 1965 the new husband of Felix's former wife brought a lawsuit challenging the divorce. His hope was to have the New York courts declare the Mexican divorce invalid. If they did so, he, (the new husband) would not have to obtain his own divorce from Felix's former wife. The case worked its way up to the New York Court of Appeals where Judge J. Bergan considering the legality of Mexican divorces said as follows:

"I cannot shut my eyes to the realities. Tens of thousands of such divorces have been granted to New Yorkers on advice of attorneys who relied on 25 years decisions by the lower courts. No social or moral purpose would now be served by ruling that marriages long ago dissolved are still in existence. ...Justice and fairness dictate that we should refuse to allow others to attack ...past rendered Mexican 'one-day' divorces.

Today tens of thousands of New Yorkers still avail themselves of Mexican 1-day divorces. The attraction now is the low cost (a fast Mexican divorce can be had for less than \$900 including all legal fees and court costs), and the speed.

One of the firms providing fast, inexpensive divorces to New Yorkers (and others) is Divorcefast.com, a Massachusetts company.

The firm offers three different divorces, each of them for different circumstances with different forms and

prices. In each case the client commences his or her quest for a speedy divorce by visiting the website (www.divorcefast.com). . The divorces are described on the site as Fast, Faster and Fastest.

The "fast" divorce is one issued by the United States court in the U.S. offshore island of Guam (in the South Pacific). This divorce requires both parties to sign the forms and one party to travel to Guam and remain there for seven days. After that the divorce becomes final in two to three days. No court appearance is necessary, but evidence must be submitted with the court pleadings showing that the client has been there for the required amount of time (a hotel receipt, for instance). The fee for this divorce is \$1,500, which amount does not include the airfare or hotel accommodations for the 7 days.

The "fastest" divorce is one issued by a Caribbean court in Haiti or the Dominican Republic. These divorces

require both parties to sign, and they become final in one day. As with the Guam divorce, the petitioner must travel to the island and also must appear in court. The divorce in Haiti is actually available with only one party signing but in this case it does not become final for 21 days.

The "faster" divorce is the Mexico divorce, previously described, which becomes final in two to three days. This divorce requires only one party to sign, requires no court appearance and costs only \$895. This divorce, too, can be completed in just one day but at extra cost over and above the basic fee.

The website address for Divorcefast.com is www.divorcefast.com. DivorceFast can also be reached by telephone at 978-443-8387, or by mail addressed to 365 Boston Post Road, #241, Sudbury, MA.