

Divorce Mailbag

Margot Swann, the Founder & CEO of Visions Anew Institute, The Divorce Resource for Women, answers your divorce questions.



Margot Swann

Dear Margot,

I am in the process of divorcing and have just realized that I am completely in charge of my car for the first time in my life. Yipes! I don't even know how to value my car in the marital split. What are the important things to do to keep my car up? How do I find a trustworthy mechanic? I don't have much money and this is scary stuff!

- In Charge of My Wheels

Dear In Charge,

How wise you are to realize that valuing your automobile and understanding good maintenance of your care are important. You know what you don't know. Now all you have to do is find someone reliable to get that information. **Sherry Richardson, the owner of Alan Cox Automotive**, is just such a reliable resource. What do you advise, Sherry?

Sherry Richardson says:

Taking care of your own vehicle can be overwhelming. Here are some tips:

If you need a technician, ask friends and neighbors for referrals. When you visit a shop for the first time, have your oil changed to see if you feel comfortable with the service. Find an honest reputable service center and always take your car there. They will get to know you and your vehicle, and can guide you when additional service is needed. The quick lube centers are not your best choice because of turnover. You want trained, capable service technicians working on your car.

Three important items to keep in mind:

- Oil Changes –Change your oil and filter every 3,000 miles if you use regular oil or every 5,000 miles if you use synthetic oil. The type of oil is listed in your owner's manual. If you do not have an owner's manual, get one and read it.
- Brakes should be in good working order. Know what percent is left on the brakes.

- Rotate your tires at every other oil change to lengthen the wear.

For the value of your vehicle have it assessed by a reputable technician and visit www.edmunds.com or www.NADA.com. If purchasing a used vehicle, have a pre-purchase inspection done and ask for a CarFax www.carfax.com.

Sherry Richardson, Owner of Alan Cox Automotive services Honda, Acura, Toyota, Lexus and Mazda vehicles. Located in Marietta at 1326 Cobb Parkway North. Call 770-427-1745 or visit www.AlanCoxAutomotive.com

Thank you, Sherry, for your sage advice. In Charge, I would also like to recommend that you attend some of the free Visions Anew Divorce Support Groups (there are 12 groups located all over Metro Atlanta), and a Divorce Workshop (March 19) or Divorce Survival Weekend (June 17-19).

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Send your divorce questions to:
margot@visionsanew.org

Remember though you never expected to divorce, if it is unavoidable, do it with good information, with integrity, and with a team of experts. You don't have to divorce alone.

The divorce process is at best like juggling dozens of balls in a circus act. At its worst, it is like fighting for your life against a multi-headed dragon often while trying to shield your children from its flames.

Our mission is to empower divorcing women to successfully create and achieve a new vision for their lives.

Wise, professional women offer the tools to help you recapture your dignity and self respect.

Our programs educate, support, and connect divorcing women with professionals, resources and each other.



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