**Notes from David Crum**: Ok, this is NOT right for every situation. But if there is a chance that you and your spouse can at least agree that you would like to preserve your family and your finances and successfully co-parent your children, you can use this information to pave the way.

**Some introductory language**: Obviously this language should be modified to fit your situation and your writing style. I would say something like this: [Dear \*\*\*] I know this is a difficult time for us, and I want to reach out to you to ask that we work together to try to preserve what we have left of our family and our finances, and that we work together to co-parent our children. Our separation is hurtful to me, and I imagine to you as well. Will you consider not pursuing a divorce like everyone else does? I would like us to consider divorce mediation or collaborative divorce, or something else that lets us get through this without losing everything we have. If you’re willing to talk about it, I would like us to at least agree on how we will act while we’re going through this. I’ve thought about it and I would like to see if we can agree on a few things while we’re working this out. Take a look and let me know what you think. None of this is legally binding of course, but I think it could help us set the tone of our divorce.

**Our Divorce Truce**

**1.** While we may disagree on a lot of things about our relationship and in our divorce, we do agree to explore options that are available to us to have a healthy divorce, like mediation and collaborative divorce.

**2.** We agree not to engage in negative communication. This means we will do our best to avoid using complaints, name calling, blaming, or other negative communication while we are working through this.

**3.** (if you have children) We understand that our divorce can hurt our child(ren), but that our child(ren) can still come out of this process healthy and happy if we divorce without a lot of conflict. In support of this, we agree not to make negative comments to our child(ren) about each other. We also agree to stop all arguing or negative interactions in the presence of our child(ren).

**4.** We agree to treat each other respectfully during our divorce process, and even when we are required to identify our issues, we will do so respectfully and with the understanding that this is only how we perceive the problem. We will be open to creative solutions to solving the issues in our divorce.

**5.** During our divorce, we will continue to co-operate in terms of finances and timesharing with our child(ren). This also means that we will work together to share time with our child(ren) that is in the best interests of the child(ren).

**6.** We will do everything we can to preserve our family relationships, our finances, and the health of our children. And if things feel out of control, we reserve the right to call one another for a “time out” to get things back on track.

**7.** We acknowledge that at one point in our relationship we were in love and committed to each other. We would like to honor those feelings as we now separate.

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 [name] [name]