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The Worst Mistakes Divorcing Couples Can Make

If you are to divorce your spouse, you can save yourself a fair amount of grief and legal bills by avoiding some of the classic mistakes divorcing couples make.

Mistake #1 - First, don't plan a secret get-a-way. If your spouse is caught by surprise when you leave, he/she may be less likely to negotiate without emotion. Likewise, siphoning off assets for a domestic "golden parachute" can make your soon-to-be-ex unwilling to trust you down the road.

Mistake #2 - If you have the urge to unburden your soul about past transgressions or infidelities, suppress it! Easing a guilty conscience only helps you and can fuel your spouse's anger.

Mistake #3 - Control your temper and the temptation to spew hate-filled speech as you walk out the door. Think long term about friendlier negotiations.

Though conflict may be inevitable, avoiding the above mistakes can minimize them.



Splitting Property and the Marital Estate - Yes, You Have One!

You may have heard the phrase "marital estate" when talking with your lawyer about filing for divorce. A marital estate isn't some stuffy castle on the English countryside. Rather, your marital estate is anything a married couple owns or owes. It's made up of assets and liabilities that you've acquired during your marriage. You calculate your net marital estate by taking your total assets and subtracting your liabilities (debts).



Expect your lawyer to ask you to do your homework when it comes to calculating your marital estate. You and your spouse should know what property you own and what debts you've accumulated. For complex cases, you may need to bring in an accountant or appraisers to give you a fair picture of what you are worth.

Once you've established what's in your marital estate, your lawyer can help you strategize about how to divide it between you and your ex.

Developing Parenting Plans for Your Two-Year-Old Child

Parenting plans for young children of divorcing parents are exceptionally tricky at times. Babies and young toddlers under age two lack the maturity and coping mechanisms of older children when it comes to switching between Mom and Dad. Your divorce lawyer can give you some basic advice about parenting plans that tend to work better with younger children.



1. Young children under two need structure, stability and routine. An older child might do just fine with an "every other weekend" or even "every weekend" visitation schedule with their parents.

2. For babies and toddlers, however, this time gap usually doesn't work. They need more consistent, frequent time with each parent to minimize separation anxiety and strengthen the parent/child bond.

Though emotions may, understandably, run high with your ex, remember to always keep your child's best interests at the forefront of your mind.

Your case is important to us. If we can't help you, we'll do our best to refer you to someone who can.

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