



Family Law Newsletter - August 2020



How To Handle Debt In A Divorce



Survey after survey shows that disagreements over money is one of the two main reasons married couples fight (the other is sex). If the couple had differing philosophies about saving and spending during the marriage, odds are they fight over dividing their debts during a divorce. Divorce will be complicated and the couple would benefit greatly from the help of a financial advisor to shepherd them through it.

Financial advisors can provide financial planning before, during and after the divorce. Plus, they can make splitting spouses aware of their options, the value of their assets, and how their financial decisions will impact their future.

State laws deal with debt at the time of divorce in different ways. Most states differentiate between debt acquired before, during and after the marriage dissolves. Some states, such as California, treat debt accrued during marriage...

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Divorce Proceedings Go Virtual During Pandemic

While some couples may have grown closer during quarantine, others are deciding to go their separate ways. The pandemic is putting a halt on major life events such as graduations and weddings, but not divorce. According to legal experts, couples are still filing for separation during the health crisis, but the divorce process is being held up by changes in court operations brought on by the ongoing issue. COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on the court system, but some courts have since decided to go virtual for existing cases that were already pending before the virus shut down the court system.



Due to the pandemic, the legal system has been forced to dive into the virtual world and experiment with remote proceedings to keep cases moving forward. Many people didn't have much access to the courts...

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Common Mistakes to Avoid During a Divorce



The stay-at-home orders implemented due to the pandemic have put a significant strain on many marriages. Experts are seeing a rise in inquiries from couples about filing for divorce and they anticipate more people will file for divorce as time goes on. Divorce is an extremely difficult process to undergo, and spouses often experience feelings of anger, guilt, sadness, and loneliness. Although these emotions are common and are to be expected, they can lead you to make mistakes that can have potentially long-lasting effects on you and your spouse's lives, both financially and emotionally. Here are the top five mistakes one should avoid while going through the divorce process.

When a person receives an order in a divorce case, this order is backed up by the power of the court. The most common example of this is failing to pay either child support or alimony. If a spouse refuses to comply with the instructions included in the court...

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Debra Schoenberg's Article Published in Family Therapy Magazine: "How the Death of a Child Can Impact a Marriage"

As our community copes with the emotional fallout of living through the COVID-19 pandemic, thousands of families are suffering from various forms of loss. Married couples are under more stress and strain due to the loss of a job, illness, or the death of a family member. The death of a child is one of the most difficult and traumatic events that parents will ever experience, as they mourn not only the loss of life, but also of the child's potential and future. And parents suddenly find themselves confronting their own futures with uncertainty, dealing with an experience they never imagined. The traumatic experience can not only have an impact on their emotional well-being, but it can also test the strength of a marriage.

In my experience as a family law attorney, major losses such as this have led to difficulties in marital functioning, and studies have found that divorce among bereaved parents is common. As parents deal with the pain and confusion...

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Message From Debra Schoenberg:

Because we limit our practice, we are especially prepared to handle complex matters. We work closely with accountants, appraisers, psychologists and economists to ensure a comprehensive approach.

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