

# THOMPSON, THOMPSON & GLANVILLE, PLC

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The following information is intended to answer some of your questions about the legal aspects of divorce and custody issues. It is not intended to answer specific questions about your case, as each case is different. If you have specific questions, contact me directly to discuss the details of your case.

### YOU AND YOUR ATTORNEY

The breakup of a marriage is a difficult experience. As your attorney, I will help solve your legal problems. I can also recommend books on divorce, divorce stress, and helping children involved in a divorce. However, I am not trained in psychological counseling. If you need help with the emotional stress, I will be happy to give you a list of professionals who are trained to help you.

To properly represent you, I must have all the facts concerning your case. Information you withhold can affect the outcome of your case in a negative way. Your confidential information is not revealed without your consent.

I want to emphasize that I am here to advise and inform you and to assist you in decision making. However, *you must make the final decisions regarding your case.* Most divorce cases are settled. The parties eventually reach an agreement, which is entered on the record as the order of the court. **Do not agree to anything that you do not understand. After an agreement is placed on the record, as a general rule it cannot be changed.**

### THREE IMPORTANT POINTS TO CONSIDER

1. The final settlement should be *fair* to both parties. If you want and demand more than what is fair, you will be unhappy with the cost, duration, and outcome of your case.
2. Neither of you are likely to get 100 percent of what you want. There will be some disappointment for you in whatever legal arrangement you settle on or by a judge's ruling.
3. You and your spouse will decide how much you spend on legal fees by arguing over the details of who gets what.

## GROUND FOR DIVORCE

Michigan is a no-fault divorce state. This means you do not have to prove fault to get a divorce. However, the words *no fault* can be misleading, because the judge may consider fault in deciding spousal support, property, parenting time, or custody.

Michigan has one ground for divorce that comes directly from the statute that provides as follows: There has been a breakdown of the marriage relationship to the extent that the objects of matrimony have been destroyed and there remains no reasonable likelihood that the marriage can be preserved. It is, essentially, an “irreconcilable differences” statement, and the statement is all a court is required to know to grant a divorce.

## DIVORCE PROCEDURE

### A. Time Line.

1. Before filing a complaint for divorce, a party must reside in Michigan for at least 180 days and in the county where the complaint is filed for at least 10 days before filing the complaint of divorce.
2. The divorce may not be finalized if it involves minor children until 6 months after the complaint is filed. In a case in which no minor children are involved, the earliest is 60 days. The time starts to count on the day the complaint is filed.
3. **THE LENGTH OF TIME THAT YOUR CASE WILL TAKE TO COMPLETE AND THE COST TO YOU CANNOT BE PREDICTED AND NO PROMISE REGARDING THESE CAN BE MADE.**

### B. Documents. A divorce will typically include the following documents:

1. *Complaint.* The complaint begins the divorce action. It states the facts of the case and the relief that the filing party is requesting (for example, custody of the minor children, child support, a share of the property, etc.). The complaint includes information about previous divorce or support cases of either party. It also includes the minor children’s residences during the past five years and states that no custody action involving the children is pending (it is only needed when minor children are involved). You will have an opportunity to read, review, and ask questions about the complaint before it is filed. The party that files the complaint is the plaintiff and the other party is the defendant.
2. *Summons.* The summons notifies the other spouse that he or she has been sued and tells him or her where and when to answer and that a default may be entered if he or she does not appear and answer. The summons is served by mail (certified), by the defendant appearing at our

office and signing for service, or by a private process server (private investigator or sheriff).

3. *Affidavit of service/return of service.* This document shows that the defendant has been provided a copy of the papers filed with the court.
4. *Verified statement to the Friend of the Court.* This statement informs the Friend of the Court of facts about child or spousal support. The statement is not necessary if you and your spouse do not have any minor children from your marriage to each other, unless you are seeking spousal support.
5. *Record of divorce.* This document is a statistical record required by the Michigan Department of Health. The document is filed when the divorce is finalized.
6. *Ex parte orders.* Ex parte orders are issued without prior notice to the defendant. The order must be served on the other party, who may then file objections. An ex parte order must contain an affidavit that is a sworn statement that affirms the facts stated. Some examples are below:
  - a. *Injunctions.* An injunction orders a party not to do something, such as selling, disposing of, or hiding assets or changing the beneficiary on life insurance.
  - b. *Personal protection order.* This order is an injunction that prohibits contact between the parties. If you feel that your safety is at risk by the other party you may be able to obtain a personal protection order from the judge either before you file or during the case. The personal protection order application must be completed by you because it is an affidavit. We can assist you in the application process; however, we can't obtain the personal protection order for you. Only you can obtain the personal protection order. Once you file for the personal protection order, your application will be sent to the court for review and if the judge determines that a personal protection order should be issued based on your application, the judge will sign the personal protection order application and it will become an order. The personal protection order office will then return the order to you for service on the other party. Our office can assist you with the service process. After the personal protection order is served, the other party will be given an opportunity to request a hearing to either terminate or modify the personal protection order. Because the personal protection order action is separate from the divorce action, the court will notify you of the hearing and not my office. If you receive notice of a hearing you must notify my office immediately. If a hearing is requested, it will be held and your testimony is mandatory at the hearing or the personal protection order will be dismissed. Because the obtaining

of a personal protection order and resulting hearing can be emotionally stressful, please talk to me before you seek a personal protection order.

7. *Court fees are currently \$175 for the filing of a complaint.* Every time that a motion is filed you must pay a \$20 motion fee (see paragraph 8). If the motion relates to child support, you must pay a \$20 motion fee, plus an additional \$40. If the motion relates to custody, you must pay a \$20 motion fee, plus an additional \$80. These costs will be billed to you directly. There is also a court charge for serving papers on the other party. If we request documents to verify account information, the source may also charge a fee that we will bill to you directly.
8. *Notice of hearing, motions, and filing fee.* A motion is a request to the court for some type of relief. A motion asks that the matter be set for hearing, and the notice of hearing says where and when. Each motion that is filed costs \$20, plus you will be charged attorney time for the preparation of the motion and time at the court hearing. Examples of motions include requests for exclusive use of the house, child support, spousal support, or the return of tangible property. Any time you want the court to do something, we must file a motion asking the court to decide the issue and make a decision in the form of an order.
9. *Temporary orders.* These orders control the case until your divorce is final. An order is the document that is entered with the court after the motion. The motion is the request to the court and the order is the court's decision regarding the request. There are generally three types of orders: (a) ex parte, (b) an order from a motion hearing, and (c) stipulated orders meaning the parties reached an agreement without the need of a hearing. Temporary orders may be requested at any time after your case is started and before a judgment of divorce is entered. Only the lawyers are allowed to speak at motion hearings unless the judge asks you a specific question.
10. *Judgment of divorce.* This is the document that grants you a divorce. It also provides for custody, parenting time, support, and property division. **YOUR DIVORCE IS NOT FINAL UNTIL THE JUDGMENT OF DIVORCE IS ENTERED WITH THE COURT AND SIGNED BY THE JUDGE. A SETTLEMENT PLACED ON THE RECORD IS NOT A JUDGMENT. THE JUDGMENT IS THE FINAL WRITTEN DOCUMENT IN YOUR CASE. IF WE ENTER A CONSENT JUDGMENT (AGREED ON BY THE PARTIES), IT IS A CONTRACT BETWEEN YOU AND THE OPPOSING PARTY. ONCE THE JUDGMENT HAS BEEN ENTERED WITH THE COURT IT CAN BE MODIFIED ONLY UNDER VERY LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS FRAUD, DURESS, MISTAKE, ETC. THEREFORE, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL OF THE TERMS OF THE JUDGMENT BEFORE YOU SIGN AND IT IS ENTERED WITH THE COURT.**

- C. Who's Who and What They Do. The plaintiff is the party who starts the lawsuit by filing the complaint. The defendant is the opposing party. The divorce is resolved by the Family Court Division of the Circuit Court. The Friend of the Court is an office of the family court that investigates and provides recommendations about child support, child custody, and parenting time; collects and distributes support payments; and may request the enforcement of court orders for support and parenting time. The judge is the individual assigned to hear and decide your case if you and your spouse do not come to a settlement.
- D. Contested and Uncontested Cases. After the complaint and summons are filed and served, the defendant has 21 days (28 if served by mail or out of state) to file an answer admitting or denying each paragraph in the complaint. The defendant may also file a counterclaim, to which the plaintiff must file an answer. Once the answer is filed, the case is contested. If the defendant does not file an answer, an order of default may be entered. The matter then becomes an uncontested divorce case. However, the defendant may decide to retain an attorney and motion for the court to set aside the default.

No divorce, whether contested or uncontested, is granted without a court hearing to determine the truth of the statements made in the complaint. Generally the plaintiff is the party that appears for the final court hearing. If you are the defendant you are not required to attend the final hearing.

### **WHILE YOUR DIVORCE IS PENDING**

- A. Discovering Facts and Defining Issues. While awaiting a hearing or trial in your case, we will be defining the issues and obtaining the facts through investigation and discovery. Types of discovery include depositions (questioning a witness under oath), requests to admit (asking the other party to agree that certain facts are true), interrogatories (questions to a party that he or she is required to answer under oath), and request for production of documents, to the other party, nonparties or companies, through the subpoena power of the court. Appraisers, actuaries (if pensions are involved), accountants, or psychological professionals may be consulted (with the client's prior consent). After discovery is completed, we will discuss your goals and settlement negotiations.
- B. Settlement. The attorneys may set up a meeting, with both parties and both attorneys present, in an attempt to try to resolve as many issues as possible. This process is known as an informal settlement meeting, and the court is not involved. If a settlement is reached, the parties may sign a document containing all the provisions of the settlement. The court may also schedule a formal settlement conference and you will be required to attend. You will receive advance notice of the conference from our office. Although the court is involved and the conference is held at the courthouse, you will not meet the judge. Only the attorneys will see and talk with the judge. The purpose of the conference is to attempt to narrow the issues such as property division or support. The attorneys meet with the judge to discuss the issues and perhaps obtain an informal

decision from the judge regarding how the judge might rule on a particular issue. If we are able to reach an agreement at the conference, we may put the terms of the settlement on the record. What we place on the record is binding so make sure that you ask any questions and understand the settlement before we proceed. After the settlement is placed on the record, you cannot change your mind and you are still not divorced. You are not divorced until the written judgment is prepared and entered with the court. If we are unable to settle your case at the settlement conference, the judge will schedule your case for trial. Your case cannot be scheduled for trial until after the settlement conference occurs.

- C. Court Appearances. I will attend motion hearings and the settlement conference on your behalf. You will be notified when and where to appear. Your judge may refer a motion to be heard by a Friend of the Court referee. This is often a quicker way to have the case heard, but a referee's recommendation is not final unless an interim order is entered, and you can appeal the decision to the judge if you timely request an appeal. The appeal period generally begins to run 21 days from the date of the referee's order. Therefore, if we have a hearing before a referee and you want to appeal the decision, you must notify me immediately.

### **MEDIATION**

The parties may voluntarily agree, during the court's two-month or six-month waiting period, to proceed to mediation. If the parties cannot agree to a mediator, the court will assign a mediator. Unless your case involves domestic violence, the court will order your case to mediation before trial. There are two types of mediation, one with only the parties and a mediator and the other with the attorneys, parties, and the mediator. Mediation is a nonbinding process. If you attend mediation without me present. **DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES SIGN ANYTHING**. If you sign an agreement, it may be binding and you will not be able to change your mind. Generally, the parties split the cost of the mediator. The mediator's fees are in addition to my fees and you will be billed for my time to prepare for and attend mediation.

### **JUDGMENT**

The judgment of divorce is the document that grants the divorce and is the final binding document in your case. It also deals with spousal support, custody, child support, parenting time, insurance, the property settlement, and other issues. You will have an opportunity to read the judgment, discuss it with me, and sign it before it is entered with the court. **DO NOT SIGN THE JUDGMENT OR ALLOW THE SETTLEMENT TERMS TO BE PLACED ON THE RECORD UNLESS YOU UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ALL OF ITS TERMS**.

### **SPOUSAL SUPPORT**

Spousal support, previously called alimony, is money paid to one's former spouse for his or her support. The court considers the following factors in awarding spousal support:

1. The past relations and conduct of the parties (fault);
2. The length of the marriage;
3. The ability of the parties to work and their income;
4. The source and amount of property awarded to the parties;
5. The ability of the parties to pay spousal support;
6. The present situation of the parties;
7. The needs of the parties;
8. The health of the parties;
9. The prior standard of living of the parties and whether either is responsible for the support of others; and
10. The age and educational level of the person claiming spousal support.

A judgment of divorce must award spousal support, expressly reserve the question, or state that neither party is entitled to spousal support. Spousal support may be modified on a showing of a change in circumstances that warrants modification, unless your judgment indicates that spousal support is nonmodifiable. Spousal support is usually paid through the Friend of the Court office but may be a direct pay if the parties agree.

### **HEALTH CARE INSURANCE**

Adult health care insurance that is provided through your spouse's employment generally stops when the divorce is final. Ongoing coverage may be available under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) (a federal law that makes continuing health care insurance available), at a cost, following divorce. COBRA benefits, if available, are for a maximum of 3 years (36 months) from the date of the entry of the judgment of divorce with the court.

Federal law also provides for group health care coverage by employers for the children of employees who are not in the employee's custody. The coverage is obtained by means of a qualified medical child support order. Children may be provided health care if the premium is paid regardless of which parent claims them as a tax dependency exemption.

### **CHILD CUSTODY**

- A. Child custody is the most emotional and difficult issue in divorce cases. Custody may take many forms, including sole custody, joint custody, shared custody, primary custody, etc. Custody has two prongs, physical and legal. As a general rule, legal custody is awarded jointly to both parents. (See discussion of joint

legal custody below.) The basis for determining physical custody is the best interests of the child. Best interests standards are gender neutral. The word “unfit” does not appear in the factors. **There is no law that says a 12 year old or older child can choose where he or she lives.** The following factors are those considered by the court in deciding what is in the child’s best interests:

1. The love, affection, and other emotional ties existing between the parties involved and the child;
2. The capacity and disposition of the parties involved to give the child love, affection, and guidance and to continue the education and raising of the child in his or her religion or creed, if any;
3. The capacity and disposition of the parties involved to provide the child with food, clothing, medical care or other remedial care recognized and permitted under the laws of this state in place of medical care, and other material needs;
4. The length of time the child has lived in a stable, satisfactory environment, and the desirability of maintaining continuity;
5. The permanence, as a family unit, of the existing or proposed custodial home or homes;
6. The moral fitness of the parties involved;
7. The mental and physical health of the parties involved;
8. The home, school, and community record of the child;
9. The reasonable preference of the child. If the court considers the child to be of sufficient age to express preference;
10. The willingness and ability of each of the parents to facilitate and encourage a close and continuing parent-child relationship between the child and the other parent or the child and the parents;
11. Domestic violence, regardless of whether the violence was directed against or witnessed by the child; and
12. Any other factor considered by the court to be relevant to a particular child custody dispute.

These factors are the law and can be found at MCL 722.23.

Child custody orders may be modified only if there is a change in circumstances sufficient to justify a change in custody. It is very difficult to modify custody once it has been established in a court order. Before agreeing to a custody



arrangement, even temporarily, make sure that you understand what you are agreeing to and ask all of your questions before the agreement is reduced to a court order.

- B. Joint Legal Custody. Joint legal custody is routinely awarded to both parents. Joint custody means the parties will have equal access to school and medical records. It also means the parents will consult each other on major nonemergency decisions for the child for the health, education, welfare, and maintenance of the child. In almost all cases, the parties will share joint legal custody, which means that the parties must first attempt to make mutual decisions regarding the child or children together. If the parties cannot decide, you must file a motion with the court to decide. You cannot just make the decision on your own without the consent of the other party.

### **CHILD SUPPORT**

- A. Child support is determined by a state formula based on the income of the parents and other factors. Parties cannot bargain away or set limits on a child's right to receive support. The state formula is essentially mandatory unless there is a justifiable reason for deviation. If child support, medical expenses, etc., are not paid up to date when the judgment of divorce is entered, the judgment must state that the unpaid amounts remain due and payable after the entry of the judgment. If the child spends more than 128 overnights with the parent that pays child support, child support may be reduced based on a calculation using the joint economic responsibility formula, which means that the support obligation will go down. Child support may be reduced by 50 percent when the child spends 6 or more consecutive overnights with the other parent and that parent seeks an abatement. To receive an abatement, the abatement language must be in your judgment, so check it before you sign it. If you have your child for 6 or more consecutive overnights, you must notify the Friend of the Court as soon as possible in writing to receive your abatement from the Friend of the Court. If you wait too long, the Friend of the Court may not grant your request. If child support is calculated under the joint economic responsibility formula (128 overnights or more), the abatement does not apply.

Child support may include a contribution for childcare expenses through the end of the school year when the child turns 12. Uninsured health care expenses for the children will usually be divided between the parties based on the ratio of their incomes and are determined by the child support formula.

The payor's base support obligation for a child should be abated by 50 percent for periods of 6 or more consecutive overnights the child stays with that parent.

Every child support order not calculated using the shared economic responsibility formula should include a parenting time abatement provision that allows for abatement of the base support obligation following the conclusion of parenting time according to the terms of this section.

If the support order does not contain a parenting time support abatement provision, no abatement should occur except by written agreement of the parties.

Parenting time abatements must not be used in conjunction with the shared economic responsibility formula since it already considers parenting time.

The 50 percent abatement must be calculated based on the base support obligation and not adjust medical or child care support amounts. Medical and child care support obligations accommodate both parents' costs and account for the time the child is in the support payor's care. **Example:** The support payer picks up three children at 9:00 p.m. June 14, and returns one child at 11:00 a.m. June 24, and the other children at 3:00 p.m. June 30. One child spends 10 consecutive overnights in the support payor's household, while the other two were there for 17 consecutive overnights. This entitles the support payer to 10 days parenting time abatement for one child and 17 days parenting time abatement for two children.

- B. Income Withholding Order. Every order for child support paid through the Friend of the Court provides for immediate automatic withholding of child support payments from the payor's income, whatever the source, unless the court orders otherwise or approves an agreement by the parties for direct payment.
- C. Modification and Enforcement. Child support may be modified if there is a change of circumstances. Support is usually ordered until the child reaches 18 years of age or graduates from high school (but not past the age of 19  $\frac{1}{2}$ ). Nonpayment of court-ordered support may lead to a contempt of court citation, resulting in a jail term. If the payer is self-employed or unemployed, support collection can be a long and frustrating process.
- D. Friend of the Court. The Friend of the Court is a state office that assists the court in determining custody, child support, and parenting time. When the complaint for divorce is filed, you will receive notice from the Friend of the Court regarding a mandatory orientation and a parenting time class. You must attend these meetings. If the meetings are set for a date and time that are inconvenient for you, contact the Friend of the Court directly and reschedule the meetings.
- E. Who Gets the Tax Deduction. The courts generally split or alternate the tax dependency exemption for the children. If the parents agree that they are going to split the deductions or alternate them, IRS Form 8332 will need to be signed each year. The allocation of the dependency exemption may be modified by the court or the parties in the future, as long as the allocation is not part of the property settlement. If it is, arguably it is not modifiable. You need to give close attention to the dependency exemption in the judgment of divorce. You should consult with your tax adviser as soon as possible to determine what value, if any, the exemption is to you.

## PARENTING TIME

The judgment may order reasonable parenting time, leaving it to the parents to decide the dates, or it may provide specific parenting time, hours, and dates. If long distances must be traveled for parenting time, arrangements can be made to share the cost.

If the parties share joint legal custody, the judgment of divorce must include language that to move from Michigan or further than 100 miles from the present address with the child, the parent must petition the court for an order allowing the move. The other party may object to the move which will result in a hearing before the judge. You cannot move without the consent of the other party and a court order. If you think that you want to move, contact me right away!

Parenting time orders may be modified on a showing of a change in circumstances. The law also allows parenting time that has been wrongfully denied to be made up, and the parent that denied the parenting time may be held in contempt of court. Failure to pay child support is not an acceptable reason to deny parenting time.

## PROPERTY

The parties, with help from their attorneys, usually arrive at a settlement of their property rights. If the parties do not reach a settlement, the court will decide the matter after a trial. Mediation or arbitration may also be used to assist in reaching a settlement.

**YOU MUST BE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THE SETTLEMENT/JUDGMENT AS WRITTEN OR PLACED ON THE RECORD IN OPEN COURT, BECAUSE PROPERTY SETTLEMENTS ARE NOT MODIFIABLE, EXCEPT IN CASES OF FRAUD, CLERICAL ERROR, MISTAKE, OR GROSS UNFAIRNESS. IN ADDITION, PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IF YOUR FORMER SPOUSE FILES BANKRUPTCY AFTER THE JUDGMENT OF DIVORCE IS RECORDED, PROPERTY SETTLEMENTS ARE GENERALLY DISCHARGEABLE IN BANKRUPTCY. SPOUSAL SUPPORT AND CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS ARE NOT GENERALLY DISCHARGEABLE IN BANKRUPTCY.**

Pensions earned during a marriage are marital property subject to division. If the property you receive includes retirement or pension plans, the plan can be divided using qualified domestic relations order (QDRO) procedures. If you receive pension and/or 401(k) monies from your former spouse, you **must** roll that money into another qualified plan generally within 60 days from receiving the funds or you will be subject to a penalty and interest. If you do not roll over the funds, you must claim the funds you receive on your own personal income taxes. Failure to do so may result in IRS penalties and interest.

In determining property issues, the court may consider many factors, including

- contributions of the parties to the marital estate;
- necessities and circumstances of the parties;
- earning abilities of the parties;
- past relations and conduct of the parties (fault); and
- general principles of equity.

Generally, property of the marriage is divided equally. There are often issues of separate property, premarital or inherited property. In Michigan, courts can consider and divide even these types of property based on the facts of each case; however, the court may decide not to divide such assets. The division is determined case by case and the judge will decide the issue.

### **DEBTS**

If you have a contract with a lender (such as a home mortgage or car loan), the divorce court cannot change your obligation. You may sign the deed to a house or title for a car over to your former spouse, but you will still be indebted to the lender. Hold harmless and antibankruptcy provisions can be included in your final judgment. However, such provisions are not absolute and the lenders may still proceed against you for collection of the debt even though the other party took responsibility for the debt in the judgment. If one party does not abide by the order, further litigation may be necessary. To have your name removed from the mortgage obligation or a car loan, a refinance of the debt will be required to remove your name from the obligation.

### **ATTORNEY FEES**

You will be charged at the quoted rate for consultations, correspondence, phone calls, office and research work, court time, filing, and hearings. You are responsible for all attorney fees, court costs, filing fees, fees for service of pleadings, appraisals, expert witness fees, etc., and other fees as set forth in the retainer agreement. If your former spouse is ordered to contribute to your attorney fees and **[he / she]** actually pays, you will be given credit for the amount your former spouse pays. Please refer to your retainer agreement regarding your retainer amount and fee structure.

**PLEASE NOTE: I CANNOT TELL YOU WHAT THE TOTAL FEE FOR YOUR DIVORCE CASE WILL BE BECAUSE WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING HOW MUCH TIME MUST BE SPENT ON YOUR CASE. THIS DEPENDS ON THE JUDGE, SELECTION OF COUNSEL BY OPPOSING PARTY, YOUR CONDUCT, OPPOSING PARTY'S CONDUCT, THE COMPLEXITY OF YOUR ISSUES, AND FACTORS BEYOND OUR CONTROL.**

### **TELEPHONE CALLS**

Although the attorney will endeavor to return all client telephone calls, it may be impossible to immediately return your telephone calls due to the attorney's out-of-office court schedule. If a matter is urgent, you should inform the receptionist and provide alternative telephone numbers and times when you can be reached. All complex or lengthy matters to be discussed with the attorney should be accomplished by in-office conferences and scheduled through the attorney's staff at a mutually convenient time.

## **AFTER THE DIVORCE**

After the divorce case is concluded, you may need the assistance of an attorney for the enforcement of support, parenting time, or property provisions. If you need further assistance, you can contact my office. Engagement of my services after the entry of the judgment of divorce for appeals, postjudgment issues, or QDROs, will be a separate matter requiring a new retainer and retainer agreement.

## **CONCLUSION**

Some divorce cases end in a reconciliation of the parties. If there is a chance to save your marriage, we will be pleased to help you do so, including recommending a marriage counselor. If you believe the marriage is over, we will do our utmost to obtain a judgment of divorce that is satisfactory to you.

This document is provided to give you an overview of divorce law and procedures. The law is constantly changing, so some of this discussion might be outdated or not apply to your case. For specific advice about your case, please contact me directly.