

O'Shea Russell
SOLICITORS



COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS



At O'Shea Russell Solicitors Main Street, Graignamanagh, County Kilkenny our Litigation Department provides specialised FAMILY LAW ADVICE and SERVICES

DIVORCE/SEPARATION

CHECKLIST: ISSUES TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR SOLICITOR

Divorce is complicated - legally, financially, and emotionally. Dividing up property a couple has acquired throughout their marriage can be one of the most contentious aspects of divorce. Your Solicitor can help alleviate some of your legal and financial stresses by advocating for a division of property that works in your favour.

If you have decided to retain a Solicitor, you can save yourself time and money by gathering important legal and financial documents together before meeting with your Solicitor. Doing this ahead of time gives your Solicitor an immediate and useful overview of the property and assets likely to be at issue in your case. Most importantly, it allows the two of you to work together to secure your short and long-term interests. The checklists below can give you an idea of what topics and documents come up in discussions with a Solicitor.

Be Prepared to Discuss

- **Issues Relating to Children**

___ Child support

___ Child custody, legal

- ___ Child custody, physical
- ___ Visitation with non-custodial parent
- ___ Grandparent visitation
- ___ Health insurance for children
- ___ Uninsured health care costs
- ___ College education
- ___ Residence in the marital home
- ___ Beneficiaries of life insurance policies
- ___ Claiming children as dependents for income tax purposes
- ___ Religious upbringing of children

- **Property Issues**

- ___ Equity in Family Home.
- ___ Other real property
- ___ Home furnishings
- ___ Business assets
- ___ Retirement benefits/ Pension
- ___ Motor vehicles
- ___ Personal property
- ___ Savings accounts
- ___ Stocks, bonds, and funds
- ___ Debts

- **Spousal Support Issues**

- ___ Entitlement to support
- ___ How much?
- ___ How long?
- ___ Continued health care coverage.

- **Documents to Have Ready**

- ___ Individual and business income tax returns, P60s etc. for the past three to five years;
- ___ Proof of your current income;
- ___ Proof of your spouse's current income;
- ___ Bank statements;
- ___ Certificates of deposit;
- ___ Pension statements;
- ___ Stock portfolios;
- ___ Mortgage Details;
- ___ Credit card statements;
- ___ Loan documents;
- ___ Utility bills;
- ___ Other bills (e.g. school tuition, unreimbursed medical bills, music lessons for children, etc.);
- ___ Monthly budget worksheet;
- ___ Employment contracts;
- ___ Life insurance policies;

- ___ Health insurance policies;
- ___ Vehicle insurance policies;
- ___ Real Property Valuations;
- ___ List of personal property (including home furnishings, jewelry, artwork, computers, home office equipment, etc.);
- ___ List of property owned by each spouse prior to marriage;
- ___ List of property acquired by each spouse individually by gift or inheritance during the marriage;

As you can see, the above list is extensive -- yet, it is not exhaustive. Every divorce is different since every couple enters and leaves a marriage under different circumstances and with different assets. Therefore, to ensure no property is overlooked, it is always a good idea to have an open and frank conversation with your Solicitor regarding all of the property and assets relevant to your case.

O'SHEA RUSSELL SOLICITORS

Main Street, Gaignamanagh, Co. Kilkenny
Logan Street, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny
Tel. 059 9724106 / 9724642

Email : nicholas@oshearussell.ie
www.oshearussell.ie

