

### **What is a Separation Agreement?**

A Separation Agreement is a binding, legally enforceable agreement which is used to resolve issues without court, when people separate who have been legally married or have been living in a common-law type of relationship.

A Separation Agreement normally deals with the following: \* Parenting arrangement with respect to the children \* Maintenance for the children \* Any claims for spousal support \* The division of assets and liabilities which would include, employment pensions, RRSP's, real estate, vehicles, contents of residences, as well as family debts.

Some people try to do their own Separation Agreement, but it is strongly recommended that a lawyer's assistance be obtained as there are various laws, both provincial and federal, that apply to these issues which need to be carefully addressed. Full and complete disclosure of all relevant information is critical to the effectiveness of the Separation Agreement. A Separation Agreement can be prepared quickly, once the terms are confirmed and the cost of such a document is far less than using the Court option.

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If you wish to contact me for a free half-hour consultation to discuss Separation Agreements or other family matters, please call my office at 250-388-4344 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and speak to my assistant, Gloria.