

## DISSOLUTION

### What is a dissolution?

Dissolution is a way to end a marriage when both the husband and wife agree how all issues should be decided. If the parties disagree on anything they must get a divorce instead.

### What are the major issues to decide when ending a marriage?

Many issues come up when ending a marriage. The major issues that could come up are:

- » How to divide up all of the money
- » How to divide all of your property
- » Who will be responsible for all of your debts
- » Who will have custody of the children
- » Whether one of you will pay child support
- » Whether one of you will pay spousal support

### How much will a dissolution cost?

Legal fees vary based on the attorney and the time involved in your particular case. You should be sure to ask any attorney that you deal with to explain all of the legal fees and costs clearly. It is a good idea to talk to more than one attorney before you decide to go with someone. Generally, getting a dissolution is cheaper and can be quicker than getting a divorce.

### Do I need an attorney?

It is a good idea to have an attorney help you file all of the necessary paperwork. Each court has different rules and requirements. It can be difficult for people to handle these sorts of cases by themselves.

Even if you and your spouse come up with an agreement, it is a good idea to show the paperwork to an attorney who represents just you. This is the best way to protect yourself and make sure that you do not lose any legal rights. Once you make an agreement and sign it, you will probably not be able to change it later.

### Can an attorney represent both me and my spouse in a dissolution?

No. In a dissolution (like a divorce) an attorney can only represent one party in the case. If your spouse has hired an attorney for a dissolution that attorney is representing your spouse and not you. That attorney's job is to look out for the best interest of their client - your spouse. You spouse's best interest and yours are not always the same. That is why it is always best to consult with your own separate attorney.