

TOWNE LAKE COUNSELING & MEDIATION

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KEY ISSUES IN SEPARATION OR DIVORCE AGREEMENTS

CHILD ISSUES

- Time spent with each parent
- Holidays - MLK, Easter, Spring Break, Memorial Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, July 4, Labor day, Thanksgiving, Christmas or Winter Break, Children's Birthdays, Other holidays.
- Summers
- Weekends (day, time, and transportation)
- Days during the week (day, time, and transportation)
- Extra Curricular Activities

CUSTODY OF MINOR CHILDREN

- Single custodial parent, shared parenting
- Joint Custody - joint legal, joint physical
- If joint physical, how are major decisions resolved if no mutual agreement

CHILD SUPPORT

- Monthly payments - amount, date(s) payable
- Circumstances when amount would be increased, reduced, suspended or terminated (more than one child, when oldest child graduates from high school).
- Education expenses
- Pre-graduation, Post high school - College (if college agreed upon, need to be very specific in terms of type college, responsibility of child, parents), Technical School

TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN

- Including Child Tax Credit

MEDICAL INSURANCE

- Health and hospitalization - mental, dental, orthodontist, vision, psychological - monthly premiums, annual deductibles, amounts not covered by insurance (is the medical plan an HMO, PPO, i.e., only specific providers covered)

COBRA

- If one party working and other party does not have insurance – does COBRA apply (company has 20 or more employees). If so, non-Employee spouse can have COBRA up to 36 months.
- Employee Spouse can find out from his/her company monthly cost to spouse.

SPOUSAL SUPPORT

- Monthly payments, amounts, date(s) payable, length of time, circumstances when increased, reduced, suspended, terminated; cash settlement

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REAL ESTATE

- Family residence
- Vacation property
- Business/Investment property

PERSONAL PROPERTY

- Household Items/furniture
- Vehicles
- Stocks, bonds, other securities and investments
- Savings and bank account
- All retirement accounts/investments

OTHER

- Club memberships, frequent flyer miles, season tickets, pets, etc.

LIFE INSURANCE

- Cash values, face value if whole life; face value if term life
- Use to insure support obligations /amount(s) and duration

DEBTS

- Outstanding Loans (other than those already listed)
- Charge card debts (joint, individual?)

INCOME TAX

- Refunds due, amounts owed, any back taxes owed?
- Indemnification of one party on past joint returns?

OUTSTANDING SUITS

- Potential monies coming in, potential monies owed

WILLS

SOCIAL SECURITY TEN YEAR MARRIAGE RULE

ATTORNEY AND MEDIATION FEES

MUTUAL RELEASE OR RIGHT TO MODIFY

- Modification by mediation

**CHILD ISSUES ONLY
(IN SEPARATION OR DIVORCE AGREEMENTS)**

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