

## D. CLIENT DO'S AND DO NOT'S

### CLIENT DO'S

- Do** check social networking sites and possibly shut down.
- Do** secure self and make provisions to be safe, if there is a threat of violence.
- Do** hire P.I. for investigative work.
- Do** inform attorney of all relevant facts.
- Do** talk about pre- and postnups, if you have had one.
- Do** see mental health professionals with attorney advice.
- Do** walk away from arguments

and conflict.

- Do** gather documents early in the process or before divorce begins.
- Do** attend parenting class on attorney advice.
- Do** complete assignments from your attorney.
- Do** familiarize yourself with your financial estate.
- Do** speak with teachers and school counselors.
- Do** provide information to attorney to show how fees can be paid.
- Do** pay bills.
- Do** consult with a tax

professional or CPA.

issues.

- Do** change designations of insurance, retirement, other financial accounts after your divorce is finalized.
- Do** start a fact witness list for your lawyer.
- Do** gather information for inventories – this includes your assets and your debts.
- Do** complete monthly budget and income statements.
- Do** be on best behavior during the divorce.
- Do** stop cursing in all forms, particularly in texts, e-mails, or other writings.
- Do** inform police of safety
- Do** listen closely to your attorney about what to expect.
- Do** disclose bad facts to your attorney.
- Do** disclose criminal history to your attorney.
- Do** talk to attorney about all facts, even if they are embarrassing.
- Do** keep all documents relevant to divorce.
- Do** change passwords to your e-mail and other of your own private accounts (non-joint accounts).

- Do** open independent bank account.
- Do** seek help for use of alcohol or unlawful substances before filing.
- Do** act as if every conversation is recorded.
- Do** act as if your writings will be read by the judge.
- Do** secure all correspondence and documents from attorney in a secure location.
- Do** believe every behavior is being recorded by a P.I. for introduction in court.
- Do** participate in kids' school and extracurricular activities.
- Do** participate in doctor's appointments and medical activities.
- Do** familiarize yourself with the kids' teachers, doctors or other significant people in kids' lives.
- Do** get copies of tax returns, bank statements, credit cards, other accounts and bring to attorney's office.

## CLIENT DO NOT'S

- Do Not** tap phones, unless you are a party to the conversation.
- Do Not** install computer tracking software.
- Do Not** record other spouse unless personally involved or you have consent from other person.
- Do Not** violate a standing order or injunction.
- Do Not** transfer or withdraw large money after filing for divorce.
- Do Not** destroy or shred documents.
- Do Not** change designations on insurance, retirement, estate documents.
- Do Not** sell property without the Court's permission.
- Do Not** take kids out of school or enroll them in a new school.
- Do Not** install GPS tracking on vehicle with out a P.I.
- Do Not** incur large or frivolous debts.
- Do Not** share divorce documents with kids.
- Do Not** discuss divorce in depth with kids.
- Do Not** start another romantic relationship.
- Do Not** discuss privileged information.

- Do Not** forward your attorney's emails to anyone.
- Do Not** put divorce information on social network sites.
- Do Not** leave guns unsecured.
- Do Not** perform P.I. tasks.
- Do Not** remove kids from the state to change their residence.
- Do Not** schedule large expenses during the divorce.
- Do Not** go around other spouse without a witness if situation is volatile.
- Do Not** open other spouse's mail.
- Do Not** divert other spouse's mail.
- Do Not** check spouse's email.
- Do Not** hack into anyone's electronic accounts.
- Do Not** make large gifts or transfers.
- Do Not** hide bad facts from attorney.
- Do Not** hide assets or resist discovery.
- Do Not** file a report with police or CPS before calling attorney.
- Do Not** have expectations that the divorce will be over quickly or inexpensively.
- Do Not** be rude or impolite to the other spouse.
- Do Not** believe other spouse or

work out a deal without your attorney's input.

**Do Not** make private negotiations with other spouse.

**Do Not** sign anything without your attorney.

**Do Not** rub in victories.

**Do Not** use unsecured communication devices.

**Do Not** keep sensitive documents where spouse can access them.

**Do Not** blog publicly about your divorce proceedings.

**Do Not** be intimidated.

**Do Not** change your income structure with employer.

**Do Not** alienate or bad mouth other parent.

**Do Not** pay for plastic surgery or other luxury items.

**Do Not** shut off all money and support to the non-income spouse.

**Do Not** write and send nasty emails.

**Do Not** send nasty text messages.

**Do Not** take scandalous photos of yourself.

**Do Not** remove, hide or secret the kids from your spouse.

**Do Not** bring illegal drugs or guns to your attorney's office.