



Family Law

CALL US - BEFORE
YOUR EX DOES!

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First, I suggest that you obtain an agreement that he continue to pay 100% of the household bills, while you work the rest of the issues out. Second, sit down together in a quiet place away from the children, and attempt to get agreement on some basic issues, such as where the children are going to live in the short term, who has access, and on what schedule. All of the children should participate in access equally, dependent upon their own activity and work schedules.

Going forward, there are a number of ways you can settle all issues; litigation versus a separation agreement being the most obvious. The general rule of thumb here, is you get what you pay for. A cookie cutter Internet agreement

will not do the same job that a custom separation agreement tailored to your individual circumstances, will do.

If you have been reliant on the other spouse to do all of the banking, now is a good time to re-familiarize yourself with joint bank accounts and the bills that are paid from them. It is also a good idea to understand what the assets and debts of the family unit are; RRSPs, mutual funds, mortgages, lines of credit, credit card debt etc.

Finally, it is prudent to change the passwords on any of your personal email accounts, banking and websites, as well as your personal computer and cell phone passwords.



Roxanne C. Shank
LAWYER

Q

I am 48 years old and after a long marriage, my husband tells me he is leaving. I am a stay-at-home mom, and he pays all the bills. What do I do?



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