

## FAMILY LAW

Most hope that their marriage will be the happiest event of their life only to find that a divorce is the worst. The legal side of divorce often tends to be a balancing of proper settlement considerations, spousal support considerations and child related considerations. A clear understanding of what is possible and what is likely early on in a divorce case can both help clients get through the emotional difficulties that are inherent in a divorce and help to expedite a reasonable settlement.

Sometimes even the best wishes and efforts of one side cannot convince the other side to be "reasonable". In such a case, it is often necessary to be firm and aggressive in propounding your legal position.

Matters involving the Friend of the Court office, child custody determinations, parenting time determinations and child support are all emotionally trying and can sometimes be grueling. Effective representation and realistic advice can reduce the trauma of a difficult divorce.

At the other end of the spectrum, there are important issues to help prevent family law disputes. These involve a mature thoughtful agreement before entering into a marriage or a postnuptial agreement after the marriage itself. These sorts of agreements are extremely important particularly where there are second marriages and second families involved. The failure to properly address these issues can result in family assets not passing down to the family of a parent who remarries later in life.