

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR MY CLIENTS:

TELEPHONE CALLS/EMAILS

Please call us or email us when you have a question or need advice concerning your case. Advice from friends and relatives is great, but, remember, you have retained us to advise you. Your case is different from Aunt Jane's and what the judge did in Joe's case may be totally different from your fact situation. Please contact us if a question arises.

Sometimes you will call and will not be able to immediately reach me. Please feel free to talk openly with Denise. Many times, she will be able to help you, and she always will make sure your message gets to me. Remember that our practice is a busy one. We are in court and otherwise occupied many times each week on matters which require our extended, immediate attention. As a result, I rely on Denise to communicate a great deal with you. We hope you will be understanding of this as we work with you.

This office operates on the "appointment method" as do most professional offices. An unexpected interruption in our schedule disrupts our productivity, and decreases our ability to focus on your specific needs. If you feel that you have issues that need to be addressed by a meeting, please contact the office and set up a specific time to talk on the phone or in person. That way, we can give you our full attention without interruption.

TROUBLE

Being married does not give a person the legal right to harass or assault their spouse. If your spouse harms you, or even threatens you, call the police immediately! This same advice applies to former spouses, too!

CHILDREN

Marital problems are extremely difficult for the children. Do yourself and your children a great favor by not "poisoning the mind" of your children. Do not dwell on your spouse's faults! Realize from the beginning that children and visitation privileges are not tools for bargaining; don't use them as threats. Children understand much more than you realize, and you should always consider their feelings and best interests when it comes to visitation and "family" matters.

COMMUNICATION INVOLVING YOUR SPOUSE OR FORMER SPOUSE

Many people do not like to talk with their spouse or former spouse during the pendency of the case and refer everything to their attorneys. Obviously, bad feelings and emotions many times make this the only way to proceed. However, much can be accomplished through a calm, objective discussion of the problem, whether it is visitation, support, or custody. Please try to keep the lines of communication open because you will be dealing with this person long after the attorneys are out of the picture. We welcome and encourage your input and suggestions.

Also, a common question concerns eavesdropping or listening devices. Be aware that it is illegal and an invasion of privacy to record or listen in on other people's conversations, whether by telephone or otherwise. Do not do so.

However, I often tell my clients to always assume that you are being audio taped or video taped. This is because your attitude and conduct during the divorce process will affect your case. When you speak, act, or react, keep in mind how it will look in the cold, harsh light of a courtroom.

Previous approval to open mail addressed to your spouse is automatically withdrawn upon the filing of a Petition for Divorce. It is illegal and a violation of the United States Postal Code to open mail addressed solely to your estranged spouse.

HONESTY

You do need to be made aware that any time you are placed under oath at a deposition or a hearing, you will be required to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. If you do not, you subject yourself to criminal perjury charges. Likewise, Texas law requires your attorney to see to it that you tell the truth; therefore, when you are under oath, I cannot and will not condone any testimony by you which is less than the whole truth.

CONTACT

Please call or email any time we can help you. This is a difficult time in your life, and it is our desire to assist you. Call or email when you are worried, have a question, or if we can help in any way. We will do everything legally possible to bring about a quick, quiet and good result for you. However, please remember that we do bill you for the time taken for telephone calls and emails as well as for other matters in your case.

COUNSELING

Good counselors are available, and we will be happy to recommend a counselor if you wish.

HOMEWORK

Although you are paying me good money to handle your case, I am only as good as the information I am provided by you. Therefore, it is imperative that you prepare and complete certain forms and information gathering that is requested of you throughout this case. Also, you can do this work at no charge to yourself, whereas I, if required to do it, will be billing you for my time and labor.

You should be as informed and as involved in your case as possible. You should read and understand any and all documents that are produced in your case whether from me or from your spouse's attorney. Further, sometimes only you can detect anything important or unusual in the documents produced (e.g., checks written for unusually high amounts or to unfamiliar persons or sources).

PLEASE READ ALL DOCUMENTS YOU RECEIVE FROM ME – MANY OF THEM WILL REQUIRE A RESPONSE FROM YOU.