

# 5 OVERLOOKED FACTORS

## THAT CAN WREAK HAVOC ON YOUR FINANCES



### 1 CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT (CIS)

- Lack of a comprehensive CIS adversely affect the outcome of any future litigation.
- For example, if your financial situation changes later, such as through a job loss, small overlooked details in your CIS CAN significantly harm your chances of getting any relief.
- Inaccurate or incomplete baselines for income and lifestyle expenses put child support and alimony calculations at risk.
- Mistakes and omissions in asset disclosures can lead to unfair equitable distribution and accusations of hiding assets.
- Divorcing spouses on good terms may think they can skip the CIS...
- This is an extremely time-consuming and costly mistake if and when the CIS is needed at a later date.

### 2 TAX CONSEQUENCES

- Certain disbursement arrangements can add unexpected tax burdens.
- Retirement accounts are one example.
- If the tax liability isn't accurately factored in your settlement, it can be worth a lot less than you thought it would be.
- Alimony payors must now count payments as taxable income. Not factoring taxes in alimony negotiations can create chaos at tax time.
- Child tax credits can alternate between co-parents. This credit does not automatically go to the custodial parent.

### 3 BEING UNPREPARED

- Being unprepared puts your decision making at risk in all aspects of your divorce.
- Lack of financial paperwork on your part may mean relying on your ex's side of the story.
- Missing court dates and deadlines put you at a distinct disadvantage.
- A lawyer will need numerous documents from you: *bank statements, records of debt, tax returns...*
- And they bill by the hour...
- Failing to gather and organize the right documents yourself means you will end up paying your lawyer hundreds per hour just to do administrative tasks.

### 4 OVERLOOKED ASSETS

- Inexperienced attorneys and those representing themselves often overlook non-materials assets.
- Items such as frequent flyer miles and reward points have value.
- Non-material assets can be used a bargaining chip, even if they aren't important to you.
- Purchasing a home prior to a marriage does not automatically exclude it from equitable distribution...
- For example, courts may credit "sweat equity" if the non-owning spouse performed repairs and upkeep of the property.

### 5 UNDERESTIMATING ASSET VALUE

- The overlooked value of household contents can be very significant.
- One example is the value of household contents.
- Furniture, artworks, tools, piano, coin collections, memorabilia, all have value that should be calculated.
- Family businesses and business shares can be undervalued when proper valuation techniques are not carried out.

**Safeguarding your rights starts now.  
Get help from a divorce & family law specialist.**



Weinberger Divorce & Family Law Group is solely focused on New Jersey divorce and family law, making us uniquely qualified to understand the challenges you are facing, as well as the intricate rules and protocols of family court.

For an initial attorney consultation, please call us at 888-888-0919.