



MICHAEL TEASE LAW
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

HOW YOU SHOULD DEAL WITH YOUR SPOUSE DURING THE DIVORCE

Divorce tends to bring out the worst in people. Self-interest apparently justifies deceptions and outright lies that would be intolerable to nice people in ordinary times. Self-protection requires a new set of guidelines for dealing with your spouse – now your legal adversary:

1. If love is gone, endeavor to be polite.
2. Be skeptical. Half of what is said is meant to deceive you. The other half is self-deception.
3. Hide your cards. Don't let your spouse know how much you know.
4. Always walk away from arguments or conflict.
5. Expect your spouse to resent your lawyer and to attempt to undermine his or her influence.
6. Never enter private negotiations without your lawyer's knowledge and advice.
7. Never make agreements or sign anything without talking to your lawyer first.
8. When in doubt, believe your lawyer, not your spouse.
9. Use your lawyers as hired insulators. Learn to say, "Talk to your lawyer and have him or her talk to mine."
10. Don't rub in your legal victories. Losers try to even up.
11. Please obtain a post office box until the conclusion of the case so that your mail will not be intercepted by your spouse.
12. Do not, under any circumstances, keep any files in connection with your case at your marital residence or any location where your spouse could seize and obtain them, thus learning your entire case and strategy.



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13. Do not, under any circumstances, enter into any Agreements of Sale on your real estate, or the acquisition of new real estate, without first conferring with I. Such an action or activity on your part could find you in a “squeeze play,” without a place to live and without funds to make the purchase, if your settlement has not been consummated by that time.
14. Do not presume that your counsel receives copies of any correspondence, legal pleadings, or notices that you may receive in the mail or by judicial process. Upon receiving any such documents, contact I immediately and send your counsel copies of any such documents.
15. Do not be intimidated by your spouse if an ultimatum or deadline is given you to accept or reject an offer or proposition. One does not negotiate “under the gun” as to time. That offer or a better offer, we frequently find, may always be available or, failing same, the court will direct the appropriate fair settlement award to you.