



# Supporting Your Client Through a Divorce

---

A GUIDE FOR FINANCIAL ADVISORS

Tasha Rock, CFP<sup>®</sup>, CDFA<sup>®</sup>

# Getting Attorneys Involved

---

- Does my client need an attorney?
- When should they speak with a lawyer?
  - Safety considerations
  - Earlier is better, generally
- Referrals
  - Personality / style of attorney is important
  - Type of case matters



# Financial Basics During Divorce

---

- Prepare Inventory Spreadsheet
- Assist in Developing Post-Divorce Budgets
- Health Insurance... for NE Spouse
- Education for Financial Issues
- Valuation Options
- Identify Separate vs Community Property
- Options to Divide Community Estate
- Support: Need & Options
- Income Taxes
- Financial Infidelity
- Reimbursement Claims



# Combining Children & Financial

---

- What are the issues?
  - Meeting Children's Financial Needs
    - Child Support
    - Other Means
  - Health & Dental Insurance
  - Uncovered Medical
  - Dependency Exemptions



# Types of Divorce

---

- Amicable Litigation
- Contentious Litigation
- Collaborative Law
- DIY/Kitchen Table
- Pre-attorney mediation
- Single lawyer model



# Roles for Financial Professionals in Divorce Process

---

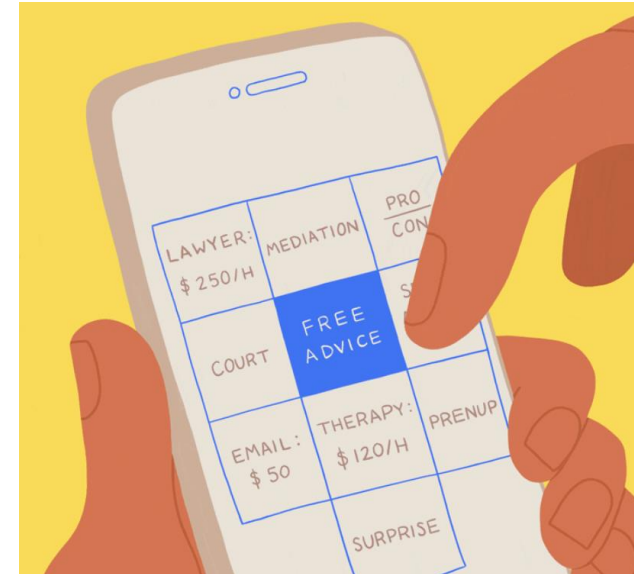
- Advocate vs Neutral
- Financial Planning
  - During proceedings
  - After proceedings
- Valuation
- Forensic Accounting
- Insurance
- Lending



# Financial (not Shadow) Advisor

---

- Recognize Fear / Temporary Diminished Capacity
- Instill Confidence
- Realistic Budgets & Projections
- Don't Make Promises: You or Them
- Support Them. Don't Save Them.
- Advise Them to Rely on their Lawyer
- Recommend Divorce Experts
  - Financial: Financial Planner, Mortgage, Business Valuations, Home Appraisers
  - Emotional: Process Facilitators, Child Specialists



# Divorce Roadmap

---

- Identify goals (interests) & issues
- Gather & Organize Information
  - Transparency (Collaborative) & Education
- Develop Options
  - Law vs client vs real-world models
- Evaluate Options
  - What are the consequences?
  - What meets the most goals?
- Negotiate & Settle
  - Memorialize agreement & Draft final documents





# Option Development Prep. Meeting

Cont - Property Spreadsheet 001

	A	B	C	E	F	G	I
1	Community Property Market Value	Debt	Net Value	Description	Rob	Amy	Notes
5				Assets			
7				Real Estate			
8	\$ 1,044,100	\$ (192,038)	\$ 852,062	1234 Echo Dot Lane, Austin, TX			
9				Totals:	\$ -	\$ -	
11				Vehicles & Boats			
12	\$ 35,400	\$ (13,181)	\$ 22,219	2017 Chevrolet Suburban - VIN: 111GGG111GGG (i/n/o Rob)			
13	\$ 45,025	\$ (28,670)	\$ 16,355	2020 Toyota Highlander - VIN: 222HHH222HHH (i/n/o Amy)			
14				Totals:	\$ -	\$ -	
16				Bank Accounts			
17	\$ 96,588		\$ 96,588	Totals:			
19				Investments			
20	\$ 371,947		\$ 371,947	Schwab One Account (Joint)			
21	\$ 10,298		\$ 10,298	Schwab One Account x8528 (i/n/o Amy)			
22			\$ -	Rubeik Stock & RSUs (i/n/o Rob)			373.486 Units in Community Estate
23				Totals:	\$ -	\$ -	
25				Retirement Accounts			
26	\$ 602,825		\$ 602,825	Charles Schwab (i/n/o Rob)			
27	\$ 3,411		\$ 3,411	Charles Schwab (i/n/o Amy)			
28			\$ -	ERS Pension (i/n/o Rob)			
29				Totals:	\$ -	\$ -	
31				Closely-Held Business Interests			
32	\$ 12,159		\$ 12,159	Amy _____, LLC			
33				Liabilities			
35				Credit Card and Charge Accounts			
52		\$ (5,629)	\$ (5,629)	Credit Cards (i/n/o Amy)			
53		\$ (33,121)	\$ (33,121)	Credit Cards (i/n/o Rob)			
55				Attorneys Fees and Support Team Expenses			
56	\$ 5,000	\$ (18,972)	\$ (13,972)	Totals:			
58				Income Tax			
60				Tax Refunds & Liability for 2021 and prior years of marriage			
61		\$ (5,500)	\$ (5,500)	Tax Liability & Refunds for 2022			
62				Tax Liability & Refunds for 2023			
64	\$ 2,226,753	\$ (297,111)	\$ 1,929,642	Totals	\$ -	\$ -	
66				Property Division	0%	0%	



# Disclosures:

---

Advisory services offered through Per Stirling Capital Management, LLC.

This material is provided for informational purposes only.

Individual advice should be provided by the appropriate tax, legal, or financial professional.

# Questions?

---

Tasha Rock, CFP<sup>®</sup>, CDFA<sup>®</sup>

[trock@perstirling.com](mailto:trock@perstirling.com)

(512) 628-2289



“I thought your wife wasn’t contesting the divorce.”