

Civilized Divorce Pledge

Husband and Wife agree that a contested divorce is a waste of effort and money, and agree to attempt a Civilized Divorce. Recognizing that this document is not legally enforceable, Husband and Wife pledge to conduct themselves in a civilized manner so that the divorce may be quick, comparatively inexpensive, and no more painful than necessary. In this document, "Client" means the person who has hired Hal Davis to be his or her attorney, and "Non-client" means the person who has not hired Hal Davis to be his or her attorney.

- 1) Client pledges that as long as Non-client abides by this Pledge:
 - a) I'll only authorize Hal Davis to take such legal actions and prepare such documents as are reasonably necessary for an agreed divorce.
 - b) I won't ask Hal Davis to have my spouse served with papers.
 - c) I won't ask Hal Davis to set any contested legal proceedings such as a hearing on temporary orders or a trial.
 - d) The only court date to I'll pursue is a "prove up" hearing after my spouse has signed the papers showing agreement to the terms of the divorce.
- 2) Non-client pledges that as long a Client abides by this Pledge:
 - a) I won't start any legal proceedings until I have reviewed my spouse's proposed offer of settlement, and I'll attempt to negotiate in good faith an agreed settlement before starting legal proceedings.
 - b) I will respond to written offers from my spouse (that is, I may agree or may request changes, but I won't simply stall and refuse to respond to offers of settlement).
 - c) I'll consult an an attorney at any time I wish.
 - d) I may hire an attorney at any time, and I may authorize my attorney to prepare an Answer and/or a Counterpetition for Divorce, but I pledge not to authorize my attorney to request a Temporary Restraining Order or a request for a Temporary Orders Hearing as long as my spouse is abiding by this Pledge.
- 3) We both pledge that if an issue arises on which we cannot agree, we will ask an impartial third party to try to help us reach an agreement. Hal Davis will be happy to provide the names of several qualified family therapists.
- 4) "Abiding by this Pledge" means not trampling on the rights of my spouse, and includes each of the following:
 - a) I won't harass my spouse in person or by telephone by using vulgar or offensive language.

- b) I won't threaten my spouse with violence, mayhem, or any illegal action.
 - c) I won't hide or destroy anything of value to my spouse, including canceling credit cards or terminating insurance coverage.
 - d) If it becomes necessary to separate our finances, I pledge not to take more than half the amount in any financial account, unless we agree otherwise.
 - e) I won't hide property from my spouse.
 - f) I will share financial records with my spouse upon request, including credit card statements, bank statements, etc.
 - g) I won't incur debt except as necessary to maintain the status quo.
 - h) I won't make any withdrawal from any retirement account without agreement with my spouse.
 - i) I won't cancel credit cards being used by my spouse, or attempt to terminate utility service.
 - j) I won't take actions that make it difficult or impossible for my spouse to pay the regular monthly bills and expected expenses.
 - k) I won't open or divert mail addressed to my spouse.
 - l) I won't sign my spouse's name to any document.
- 5) The parties make the following pledges regarding the children (if applicable):
- a) I pledge not to use the children as a weapon against my spouse.
 - b) I pledge not to try to make the children think less of the other parent by saying negative things about the other parent in front of the children.
 - c) I pledge to encourage the children to spend time with the other parent.
 - d) I pledge to respect the other parent by picking up or returning the children promptly when agreed, and to not make last-minute changes in the possession schedule except in an emergency.

Agreed:

Husband

date

Wife

date