



## Settlement Checklist

In some instances divorcing spouses are able to settle their differences and reach an agreement regarding the terms of their divorce. When that is possible, an attorney for one of the spouses can write an agreement and ask to have it approved by the Family Court and issue a Final Divorce Decree. The court's two primary concerns will be the best interest of the children and that the agreement is fair and was entered knowingly by both spouses.

Your settlement agreement should end all controversy between you and your spouse. It is important to know that if you fail to address an important issue in your settlement agreement you may waive your right to raise it at a later date. The only matters that are open to review by the courts are those relating to the children (custody, visitation, and child support). Stating that you didn't read or understand the agreement will not be a defense. You simply can't renegotiate the agreement later. Your settlement agreement should be carefully drafted by your attorney and reviewed by both parties.

Please use the following list as a guide of all issues your settlement agreement should address:

1. Custody
2. Visitation
3. Child Support
4. Medical Insurance
5. Non-covered medical expenses
6. Life Insurance
7. Real Property (including marital home and mortgage)
8. Personal Property
9. Bank accounts
10. Business's
11. Marital debts
12. Automobiles
13. Retirement Accounts
14. Alimony
15. Taxes
16. Restraining Orders