

Property

In all divorce proceedings, accurate location, identification, and valuation of assets are essential for fair and legally binding property settlements. For couples without pre-nuptial agreements, asset and debt division can be the most tedious and time consuming component of a divorce. You may have accumulated significant marital property and debt during your marriage. Simply identifying and valuing your assets and organizing your debt can be overwhelming. Working with experienced divorce lawyers and financial professionals helps you be certain nothing is missed and all your property and debt are on the table and that the most advantageous tax treatment considered. Our divorce lawyers regularly work with financial professionals experienced in identifying and valuing assets and debt in preparation for divorce settlement proceedings. Working with these professionals allows you to save on costs and be confident your property is being handled by experienced professionals.

Equitable distribution

It is our policy to start a spreadsheet of the marital assets and liabilities immediately following the initial consultation using information from the notes at that meeting. We then review primary documentation relating to all assets and liabilities. Modification and updates to the ED schedule permit us to give you an ongoing appraisal of the various potential equitable distribution scenarios and to provide you with an analysis of various tax consequences resulting from the transfer of marital assets, as well as give you the basis for long term and retirement financial planning. We strive to structure a final settlement which, in longer term marriages, addresses retirement issues as well as your immediate economic needs.



Following an accurate and thorough investigation and description of your estate, our divorce attorneys will work with you and your spouse's divorce lawyer to craft a property settlement agreement. We want you to have the legal advice you need to help you preserve your wealth during and after your divorce.

Call us today to begin working on your divorce property settlement. At the Law Offices Of Jason A. Jenkins, in Allentown, Pennsylvania, we represent clients in all types of divorce matters. [Contact us](#) to schedule a consultation.

What to expect from the Courts

We have set forth below a thumbnail sketch of what to expect from the Courts in Pennsylvania. There are minor variations in the application of the law from county to county. Moreover, judges and masters have discretion in the application of the law.

Short term marriages - In short term marriages without children the Court generally seeks to restore the parties to where they were before the marriage. In the run of the mill case, property acquired during the marriage is split 50/50 and alimony, if appropriate, is ordered for only a short period of time.

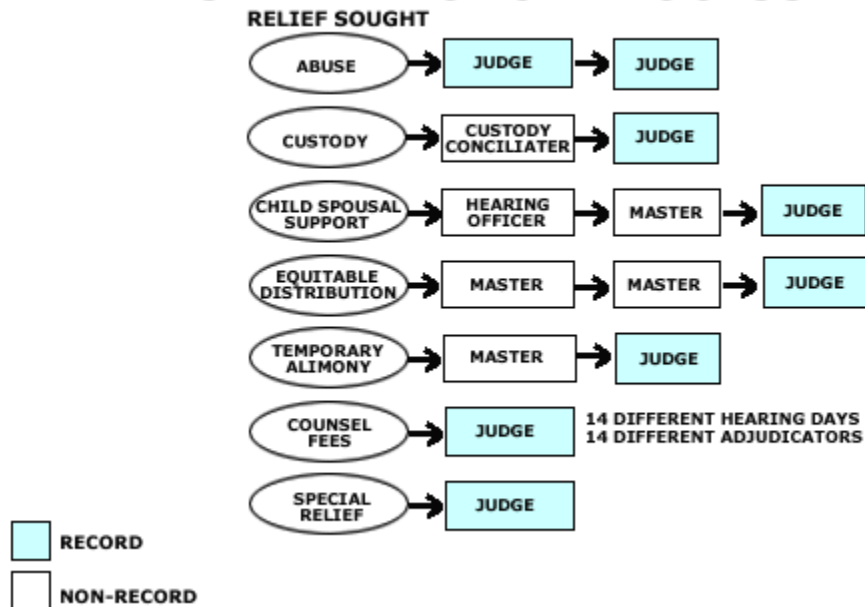
Mid-length marriages with children - The court, in this type of marriage, will seek to protect the children. The court may order more than 50% of the assets to the less wealthy custodial spouse. Child support, medical coverage, and alimony may be appropriate and ordered in these cases. Alimony is generally awarded for a limited period of time (frequently one (1) year for every three (3) years of marriage) depending on the length of the marriage and the age of the parties' children. Health, earning capacity and possible inheritance, among other factors, will be considered and may result in deviations from the common pattern.

Late in life marriages - In late in life marriages the court tends to revert to a 50/50 split of assets and provide alimony, if appropriate, until the parties retirement age (in some circumstances after retirement). These cases generally involve division of pension interests which can be time consuming and technically complex. Health insurance is an important consideration in these cases.

Litigation

Litigation is a last resort for our firm. Frequently, litigation occurs when there is total lack of communication and trust between the divorcing parties. We find that litigation by definition is the most contentious form of dispute resolution and produces the least satisfactory results for both parties. It is by far the most expensive and time consuming and the possible steps are numerous (see the Present Divorce Process chart below). However, if a case requires aggressive litigation to protect our client's interests, we will provide it.

PRESENT DIVORCE PROCESS



We can also prepare a pre-nuptial or pre-marital agreement for our clients.

Our Philosophy...

Litigation is expensive, time consuming, emotionally draining, and may not yield cost-effective results for either party. While in some cases litigation is necessary, in most cases alternatives to litigation are more equitable and productive.

It is our philosophy that when related issues, such as support, alimony, long-term financial planning, and equitable division, are resolved together, allowing the interconnectedness of each issue on the other to be recognized and addressed, both issues will more easily be resolved. When related matters are addressed separately and in a vacuum, as is the process in many family courts, the parties feel frustrated. We want to set you and your family up for success, a functional post-divorce relationship.

We make it a point to be available to our clients, and we can often meet the day you call. We invite you to contact our family law and divorce attorneys today. Often, we are able to meet with you the same day you contact us. Our address is 1908 Allen Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania, 18104. Our phone number is (610) 432-7040.