

## **Preparing for your Initial Consultation - Divorce**

*HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PREPARE FOR YOUR INITIAL CONSULTATION WITH A GEVURTZ MENASHE DIVORCE ATTORNEY:*

1. Bring copies of any paperwork or pleadings you have been served with.
2. Bring copies of all previous legal documents relating to your case, i.e. dissolution judgment or modification judgments.
3. If applicable, bring a copy of your prenuptial/postnuptial agreement.
4. Bring a copy of last year's tax return to provide income information for you and your spouse.
5. Prepare a list of joint and separate assets.
6. Prepare a list of joint and separate debts.
7. Bring any type of statement of net worth or financial statement, if you have one.
8. Prepare a list of your concerns and questions that are specific to your case. Here are some examples of questions many prospective clients have during their consultation, which you may wish to use as a guide for your own case:
  - What percentage of your practice is devoted to family law?
  - Can you explain the dissolution of marriage process to me?
  - What is the difference between a dissolution of marriage and a legal separation?
  - Is my Prenuptial Agreement enforceable? *(If applicable)*
  - Do we have to live together during the divorce?
  - Do we have to go to mediation?
  - What is your attitude toward negotiation and mediation?

- custody?
  - What is the difference between joint custody and sole
  - What if we cannot agree on custody and/or parenting time?
  - What types of parenting plans are available?
  - Do I have to take a parenting class?
  - How is child support determined under the Oregon Child
- Support Guidelines?
  - Can my spouse terminate health or life insurance for myself and/or the children while the case is pending?
  - Who covers the children for health insurance after the dissolution is completed?
  - Does my spouse have to maintain life insurance for me and/or the children after the dissolution is completed?
  - Who is able to claim the children as tax exemptions?
  - What are the types of spousal support?
  - Am I entitled to spousal support?
  - How will the court divide our assets?
  - How will the court divide our debts?
  - What tax consequences are there?
  - How does the court view inherited or gifted assets?
  - Will anyone else be working on my case?
  - What costs, other than your own, do you expect will be involved in my case (for example, accountants, custody evaluators, appraisers)?
  - How long will it take to resolve my case?
  - What is your strategy for my case?
  - What is your retainer?
  - How are fees handled if my retainer is depleted?
  - How are your hours billed?

- Are our meetings, telephone calls, emails, etc. protected by attorney-client privilege?
- If I reconcile, or part of the retainer is not used, is the portion refundable?

Gevurtz, Menashe, Larson & Howe, P.C.  
115 NW First Avenue, Suite 400  
Portland, OR 97209-4024  
500 Broadway St., Suite 400  
Vancouver, WA 98660  
OR 503.227.1515 | WA 360.823.0410  
[www.gevurtzmenashe.com](http://www.gevurtzmenashe.com)