



FAMILY LAW GROUP PHILOSOPHY

This article is not to disseminate or to discuss the Divorce Code and Custody Law of Pennsylvania. Countless articles already exist. This article is presented to discuss the “philosophy” of the Family Law Group and our relationship with our clients.

DIVORCE. During the initial Family Law office conference, we ask the client whether the marriage can be saved. If so, we generally recommend counseling with a psychologist, but both parties have to agree to counseling. Assuming that the marriage cannot be saved, we communicate with opposing counsel and attempt to settle economic issues in a fair and equitable manner. We explain to our clients that marital fault does not affect equitable distribution of marital property. Sometimes inexperienced or aggressive opposing counsel do not understand that concept and argue that marital fault somehow entitles their client to a greater share of marital property. Some opposing attorneys attempt to “churn” a case in order to generate more legal fees. We discourage that conduct. Because we understand the emotional and personal nature of divorce, we are always available for your phone calls and inquiries.

CUSTODY. Our philosophy with regard to custody is that children should be exposed to both parents, except if one parent is alcohol- or drug-impaired, or convicted of a serious assaultive crime. Many circumstances determine the amount of time children spend with each parent on a weekly basis. If the parents are unable to agree as to the allocation of time each is to spend with their children, in some cases we advocate a custody evaluation by an expert such as a psychologist, if finances permit. In other cases, we approach custody conciliations as an opportunity to resolve the differences of the parties rather than as a mere stepping stone to further litigation. In all cases, our mission is to do what is in the best interest of the child or children.