Four Reasons to Get a Family Lawyer by Mike Clark

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Imagine youâ€™re about to make a personally difficult decision: breaking up with your spouse. Breaking up is one of lifeâ€™s most difficult choices. Ending your relationship is tough enough as it is, let alone dealing with the other issues falling out from that.

In Ottawa, youâ€™re not alone; statistics Canada records about 213,983 active family cases, out of which about 54,927 are about divorce in Ontario alone. If you and your spouse canâ€™t agree on certain things, then it might be time to get a family lawyer. If youâ€™re still asking yourself if thatâ€™s worthwhile, here are four reasons why:

Divorce

In Ontario, it takes only one spouse to actually want a divorce to end the marriage even if the other refuses. However, that person can only acquire it after demonstrating in court at least one year of separation. Depending on the details of your situation, youâ€™ll need a family or divorce lawyer to examine them and advise you accordingly.

Property

What if you have property you mutually own, but have to decide who gets what? Itâ€™s not a pretty sight if both of you canâ€™t agree on that. Under Canadaâ€™s Constitution, each province or territory has its own laws spelling out the rules for dividing property when a couple divorces. You need a solicitor to let you know how much the law entitles you to and to ensure you get that share.

Support

A divorce can have a financial impact on one of the spouses. The one who makes more usually pays â€œspousal supportâ€• to the other to balance the divorceâ€™s impact, although the one who makes isnâ€™t always entitled. Kanata lawyers can, again, explore your case to see if you really have to give that support or not, then you decide on who meets your needs the best.

Child custody

If you both have at least one child, that alone is enough to make things very challenging for both of you. If you and your partner canâ€™t agree on who can do what with your child, you better get a family lawyer to look after your interests. Many Ottawa family lawyers will try to work things out with your spouse, but only after they looked at your case.

The bottom line is that things can get complicated if both you and your spouse canâ€™t agree on certain issues while ending your relationship. A family lawyer knows the laws and similar cases, and can help you while following what the law says. You can also read more about family law and Ottawa law firms handling similar cases at eHow.com and About.com.

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