

# Divorce Basics

MAIN AREAS  
OF CONCERN

GOALS

LEGAL ISSUES

THE ATTORNEY  
CLIENT  
RELATIONSHIP

# PERSONAL GOALS

- **MANAGE CONFLICT**
- **PROTECT CHILDREN**
- **RESTRUCTURE A WORKING FAMILY REALTIONSHIP AFTER DIVORCE**

# Conflict Management

- FIGHT ONLY WHEN NECESSARY
- MANAGE EXPECTATIONS
- DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF
- SEPARATE EMOTIONAL ISSUES FROM FINANCIAL AND LEGAL ISSUES
- CHOOSE THE APPROPRIATE METHOD
  - *MEDIATION*
  - *NEGOTIATION AND SETTLEMENT*
  - *LITIGATION AND TRIAL*

# Protect Children

- Never disparage your spouse in front of the children
- Do not use your children as messengers
- Reassure children that they are loved and are not at fault for their parents problems
- Encourage children to maintain relationship with your spouse if no danger is presented
- Your children's interests come first

# Protect Children

- Do not let your children become your caretakers or confidants
- Get counseling for problems such as substance abuse, rage, depression etc
- Pay your child support on time and in full
- If your spouse is delinquent in paying support, do not complain to the children
- Try not to uproot your children

# Protect Children

- Consult with other parent on scheduling visitation – Plan ahead
- Keep visitation schedule strictly
- Be flexible
- Limit children's decision making power
- Present a united front in dealing with children's behavioral and emotional problems

# Restructure Family

- You will always be your children's parents
- You will continue to have contact regarding the children and financial issues
- Make a deal that will last – make it fair to everyone
- Make a life plan
- Be tolerant of disagreement – coexist peacefully

# LEGAL ISSUES

- Grounds for Divorce
- Custody
- Parenting Time
- Child Support
- Alimony
- Equitable Distribution
- Marital Torts



# Grounds for Divorce

