



O'Donnell, Weiss & Mattei, P.C.

Do I Need a Family Law Attorney?

Do I have to have an attorney represent me at my child support hearing? Do I need an attorney to represent me at my Protection From Abuse hearing? I think my ex-husband and I can reach an agreement, so do I really need an attorney at our custody hearing?

We frequently hear these questions, and many like them, from our clients. We always respond by advising the client that they do not have to have an attorney, but they will be well-served by hiring an attorney to represent them at hearings surrounding such important matters in their lives and the lives of their children.

In a divorce and property distribution matter, an attorney helps the client understand his or her rights and responsibilities toward their soon-to-be ex-spouse. The attorney helps the client maneuver through all of the county-specific procedural rules in finalizing a divorce. The attorney also helps the client understand how the Pennsylvania Divorce Code treats assets acquired before marriage, assets acquired during marriage in their individual name and/or in joint names, and the assets acquired during the separation and before the divorce is finalized. Armed with this information, the client and his or her attorney can discuss how to devise a property distribution settlement arrangement that protects the client's property rights and best fits the client's future financial plans.

Attorneys are a tremendous help to clients in calculating their responsibility or entitlement when it comes to child support amounts, as well as spousal support, alimony pendente lite, and alimony, and can help the client understand the support calculations in the Pennsylvania Statewide Support Guidelines, so they are not surprised when the Court calculates the child support and/or spousal support entitlement or obligation.

Attorneys provide a great service in describing the three (3) types of custody to clients and how same applies toward their work schedule, home schedule, residential arrangement, etc. The attorney helps the client focus on the child's best interest when negotiating a mutually acceptable child custody and visitation arrangement.

The above describes just a few areas of Family Law and how a Family Law Attorney provides both value and comfort to clients when dealing with such important and emotional issues.

***Call today and talk to one of our family law attorneys
(610) 323-2800***