

## **Prenuptial Agreements**

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By most accounts, approximately 50% of marriages end in divorce. Hammering out the financial issues in advance can prevent much costly legal wrangling later.

If you feel it is unromantic to establish end-game parameters ahead of time; guess what- they already exist in the form of divorce law.

If you are the prospective spouse with more property, the divorce law in your state may cause you to give up more than you feel is fair. This is of particular concern to high net worth individuals in brief but unsuccessful marriages.

Even if you are willing to throw caution to the wind for the sake of love, other people may be negatively impacted by the decision. Specifically, adult children from a prior marriage stand to receive less from the estate of a remarried parent. Business partners of a divorcing individual may also be negatively impacted as spouses wrangle for ownership and possibly control of the business entity.

Contrary to popular belief, prenuptial agreements can also help the spouse with less property. The classic case in this category is the partner who halts his or her higher education or opts against the “fast track” career path for the sake of marriage and family. In the event of divorce down the road it is vitally important to have one’s financial interests firmly established.

In addition to spelling out financial issues, some prenuptial, agreements have included surprising behavior controls. Frequency of sex, pet ownership, parties weight and fitness levels, and rules governing vacations with in-laws, are clauses requested by an increasing number of parties.