

# 8-Stage Divorce Roadmap



## 1. Start Case

- Questionnaire
- Determine Best Process & Strategy
- File and Serve Pleadings
- Family law automatic restraining orders
- Establish Jurisdiction



## 2. Establish Status Quo

- What needs to be done to stabilize the situation?
- Issues: Living arrangements, temp support, temp custody, fees, exclusive use and control, restraining orders & injunctions
- Establish Status Quo Agreement or Pendente Lite Temp Court Orders
- Modifiable and Retroactive



## 3. Disclosures

- Establish facts of the case
- Income & Expenses;
- Schedule of Assets & Debts
- Form Interrogatories
- Documents & statements



## 5. Negotiation/Settlement

- What are the issues in the case?
- What are the party's interests?
- What are the impasses?
- Proposals, negotiations
- Confirm agreement on all or most issues
- Draft and execute marital settlement agreement



## 4. Discovery

- Do we have all the necessary facts?
- What else do we need to know to make a settlement proposal?
- Do we need a neutral resource to help such as an appraiser?
- Do we need an expert?
- Do we need to ask questions, or obtain records?

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## 6. Draft Judgment

- Final Declaration of Disclosures
- Prepare stipulated judgment
- Prepare judgment supplement packet
- Add terms, waivers, disclosures, & acknowledgements
- Obtain final signatures



## 7. Final Entry of Judgment

- File Judgment & Judgment Packet
- (Revise and refile on court rejection)
- Request calendaring of prove up hearing
- Possible appearance at prove up
- Judge approves, executes and enters judgment



## 8. Post-Judgment Services

- Enforcement of Judgment Terms, Payments
- QDRO Services, Retirement Plans
- Reserved Issues
- Support Modification
- Sale of Real Estate
- Tax Issues