

DIVORCE RULE 1: IF YOU WANT IT, KEEP IT.

It's easier for your lawyer to argue to keep what you already have than to take something that your spouse has.

MORRIS-SOCKLE

- DIVORCE RULE 2: DON'T WASTE TIME WITH YOUR ATTORNEY.
 - Chit-Chat costs the same per minute as quality legal advice. Have your questions and concerns written out before you go into a meeting.
- DIVORCE RULE 3: THINK & PLAN BEFORE YOU ACT.

It's unrealistic to try and win everything on every issue. Decide where you are willing to compromise and where you are not and let your attorney know.

■ DIVORCE RULE 4: FILE FOR DIVORCE BEFORE YOUR SPOUSE

The Petitioner is able to frame the issues and be heard by the judge first. It is a big advantage to file for divorce first.

■ DIVORCE RULE 5: TEMPORARY ORDERS BECOME PERMANENT.

Take the temporary orders very seriously, they have a habit of becoming permanent. It is easier for you to defend a win than it is to recover from a loss.

DIVORCE RULE 6: DON'T SAY IT IF YOU DON'T WANT THE JUDGE TO HEAR IT.

Anything you say, text, or post during a divorce can be used against you in court. Don't give your spouse any more ammo than they already have.

DIVORCE RULE 7: LEAD THE LIFE THAT YOU SAY YOU LEAD.

If you say you can't afford the demands then don't go out and buy a new car. If you say you want more time with your kids, capitalize on your time now.

■ DIVORCE RULE 8: DO NOT LIE.

The truth always comes out eventually. Avoid being labeled a liar by the judge and make sure that you face the facts of your case with honesty.

DIVORCE RULE 9: LEARN TO LET IT GO.

You will not get back what you lose during a divorce. Forget about it. Look forward to creating the kind of fresh, happy, life that you deserve.

■ DIVORCE RULE 10: AFTER THE DIVORCE - KEEP IT TO YOURSELF!

If you get a raise, win the lottery, or get an inheritance, do NOT tell your ex-spouse about it. If you want to keep it for yourself then keep it to yourself.

DIVORCE RULE 11: THINK HARD BEFORE JUMPING INTO ANOTHER MARRIAGE.

You just went through a huge financial and emotional blitz. Consider what it would look like going through that again before you get married, again.

DIVORCE RULE 12: CLEAN UP YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS AFTER DIVORCE

You don't need Facebook bringing up your anniversary or a new date asking about pictures of your ex on your Twitter page. Clean up your social profiles.