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BASIC CHECKLIST FOR A TEMPORARY SEPARATION AGREEMENT

Purpose

To separate temporarily for various reasons, with minimum precedent for the future and no predilection of the outcome.

Length of Agreement

Defined period
Unilateral right to terminate and mutual right to extend
Mediate before terminating?

The Children

Legal custody (who makes major decisions about them)
Parenting plan
Where they live
When we each get to be with them
Holidays etc, if any, and other particular issues

Financial Issues (after total Disclosure)

Who pays the bills
Does one pay money to the other, weekly, monthly or other
How to deal with extraordinary expenses
All insurances usually stay in place

Property

Freezing assets: no sale or changing assets without consent
Ordinary investing and other asset management continues
The person moving out may take agreed upon belongings

Our Separation

Who moves out

Can he or she come back to the house, and when
Are we allowed to date
Other aspects of the separation we want to define

Resolution of Disputes

Mediating questions we cannot resolve by ourselves

Counseling

Do we want help in deciding whether to stay married

Other Provisions