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A New Way Of Looking At NJ Divorce

By Curtis Romanowski

A divorce is a one-time project that has defined starting and ending dates, a clearly specified set of objectives or scope of tasks to be performed, a predefined budget, and a temporary settlement or litigation organization that is dismantled – as far as the divorcing parties are concerned – once the divorce is finalized.

Examples of subsets of divorce-related objectives include: redesigning post marital relationships, setting up new households, drafting parenting plans, developing new processes for addressing post dissolution family objectives, setting up various estate and trust devices, and developing plans for re-entry into the workforce.

Some counter-examples – otherwise present in intact family units, but not part of the divorcing process per se – would include: cleaning the house, paying the bills, cooking the meals, driving to and from work, earning a living, or pursuing a hobby. In short, anything of a purely diurnal, repetitive nature.

Another definition of divorce: A divorce is a problem scheduled for solution.

As this definition indicates, settling a divorce is problem-solving on a relatively large scale. One of the common causes of difficulty in settling divorces is that insufficient time is spent at the beginning of the engagement defining exactly what problems are to be solved by the divorce. This can lead to the unfortunate situation in which the right solutions have been developed, but for the wrong problems.

Collaborative Divorce Management is the planning, scheduling, and controlling of divorce-related activities, in order to collaboratively achieve divorce objectives.

Collaborative Divorce Management involves three major activities, which are aimed at achieving divorce objectives. These activities are called Divorce Planning, Scheduling, and Control. The primary objectives – which exist in all divorces – can be listed as follows.

In order to be optimal, a divorce must finally reach its conclusion:

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P – Leaving the parties with durable solutions that will Perform in a manner likely to satisfy their needs;

C – Within Cost or budgetary constraints;

T – On Time;

S – While holding the Scope of the divorce constant, and while using resources efficiently and effectively.

The first three of these are referred to as the P, C, and T aspects of Collaborative Divorce Management. A simplistic way to address these aspects would be to refer to them as good, fast and cheap. (P= good; C= cheap; T= fast). The term scope refers to the magnitude of the divorce or related family engagement, as well as to certain other boundaries or constraints.

For instance, suppose the divorce settlement engagement is initially priced or cost–estimated with the understanding that there will be no disputes involving child custody or parenting. Then suppose further that one of the parties later announces that he or she is planning to relocate to the opposite coast, and is hoping to preserve his or her parenting relationship in so doing by whatever means – including bringing the children along – we say that this is a change in the scope of the divorce settlement engagement, which will definitely result in a price increase.

A very important point:

You cannot tie down all four of these aspects simultaneously. If three of them are specified, the fourth must be allowed to vary.

Mathematically, this can be illustrated with a general equation as follows:

$$C = f(P, T, S)$$

In other words, the equation says, Cost is a function of Performance, Time, and Scope. Generally speaking, the Cost of the divorce will increase as, P, T, and S increase, except in the case where the parties are insistent – for whatever reason – upon bringing the divorce to its conclusion much earlier than the difficulty and magnitude of the issues would normally dictate.

In spite of the fact that the four variables are interdependent, many divorcing parties try to dictate all of them at once – then start to wonder why they cannot be met. One of the most common problems is for the scope of the divorce to increase as time passes. Divorcing parties often begin to think of things that did not initially occur to them, once the divorce has gotten underway. More often than not, the divorcing parties fail to invest enough time and effort at the beginning of the divorce, in order to properly define the problems sought to be solved at the conclusion of the divorce.

Unfortunately, the scope tends to increase in small increments – rather than large ones – making such changes a bit innocuous. Such incremental changes in the range of issues treated in the course of a single divorce engagement are known as settlement scope creep, which must be managed

concurrently, while the engagement is underway.

Article was written by New Jersey Divorce Attorney Curtis J. Romanowski, Esq. of Romanowski Law Offices. His prominent family law firm is dedicated to the betterment of the practice of NJ Divorce & Child Custody Law. Visit his website at

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Divorce Articles: How To Get The Most From A Divorce Article

By Karl Augustine

There are many types of divorce articles available on the Internet by a variety of authors. What's below will help you get the most out of the divorce articles here on this site and anywhere else. The below information about divorce articles holds true for most any type of articles on the Internet as well.

When people seek out divorce articles on the Internet, they usually want some sort of information that will help them solve a problem they may be encountering. Of course, the article seeker may just want to be informed about a certain subject for a variety of other reasons. In order for someone to get the most out of divorce articles, they should consider the following items:

1. Divorce article validity based on the source:

When reading a divorce article, consider what the writer has in the way of credibility via credentials or life experience. Writers don't necessarily have to have advanced degrees to write a credible divorce article, they just have to have a true life experience that helps or otherwise informs in some way for the good of the reader.

2. Divorce article goal:

If you're reading a divorce article and you find yourself wondering what they goal of it is, try to figure out what the writer's intention was when writing the article. Articles are written for a variety of reasons...to inform, to help someone improve their life, to sell a book, to sell a service or product, etc. Just because a divorce article is designed to sell a product or service as the end goal, it doesn't make that article less valid...if the intentions of the reader are also to help someone, and the reader gets something out of the article, chances are it is a worthwhile article.

3. Secondary message of the divorce article:

Take a look at what the divorce article is saying behind the scenes. Assess what you think the divorce article is trying to get across that isn't always apparent at the first reading. Sometimes authors deliberately write so the reader has to think a little more than in casual reading in order to fully get the message.

If the divorce article is designed to sell a product or service, decide whether or not the divorce article's theme goes hand in hand with the product or service...does it add value or complement the offering? If so, decide whether you'd like to try the product or service or at least review the product or service to see if it is for you. A reader can tell a lot about the product or service owner by the way the article is written. Is it off topic? Is it detailed? Will the concepts explained in the divorce article apply directly to you?

When reading divorce articles or any other articles on the Internet, always remember that the article is there for a reason. If the author seems to have good intentions (revealed in delivering useful

information that you can benefit from) chances are the author may have other articles or information worth your time.

Karl Augustine Author, "A Practical Guide To Deciding Whether Or Not To Get A Divorce". *A resource recommended by marriage counselors to their clients.

<http://www.divorce-articles.com>

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