

Togetherness Agreement

Planning for Your Marriage to Succeed Financially and Relationally

“The product of the *head*, *heart* and *hand* is a thing to be loved.” - Elbert Hubbard

Create a Togetherness Agreement using your **head**, guided by your **heart**, to have your **hand** in a writing laying out a positive foundation for you and your significant other’s life together.

The words Prenup (Prenuptial Agreement) and Postnup (Postnuptial Agreement) may have you feeling on edge. You may think such documents are a bad omen or the documents are skewed to one side in preparation for the marriage to fail. However, when done properly, and with care, such documents are created with the plan for your marriage to succeed financially and relationally.

Financially, you should be talking about finances before the marriage and throughout the marriage to create a vision for your life together with financial success. Relationally, it is not a secret that building a strong relationship between you and your significant other, as well as your respective families, will lead to a flourishing marriage.

Working together and being proactive in creating a Togetherness Agreement, without focusing on a negative end to the relationship, will allow you to embark on a journey to merge your financial future and lives together. This is a great way to provide trust and security for both of you, especially for those beginning a blended family. Address what might become emotionally charged issues down the road, reaffirm your commitment to your marriage, and come into an agreement together as to what your marriage will be.

| WHAT IS THE GOAL? | WHAT CAN IT COVER? | WHAT CAN'T IT COVER? |
|--|--|--|
| Put everything on the financial table and decide how you can meet your respective needs, plan for how money will help care for your family over time, and help avoid conflict down the road. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">◇ Waive right to alimony. (Prenup)◇ Distinguish joint and separate property.◇ Protect from debt of the other.◇ Supplement and protect your estate plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">◇ Waive right to alimony. (Postnup)◇ Child custody or child support.◇ Provide incentive for divorce.◇ Go against public policy. |

| | |
|--|---|
| CONSIDERATIONS FOR A TOGETHERNESS AGREEMENT | <ul style="list-style-type: none">◇ Have children from previous marriage and wish to save assets for them.◇ Have significant assets or income that you want to keep separate.◇ Have an ownership in a business or are involved in a family business.◇ Concerned about amount of debt of other party.◇ Expect to receive an inheritance in the future.◇ Giving up a successful career to get married. |
|--|---|

| QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT WHEN CONSIDERING A TOGETHERNESS AGREEMENT |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">◇ Will the premarital assets and debts remain separate property, meaning that they go back to the person who accumulated them?◇ If one pays the premarital debts of the other (i.e. school loans) will it be considered a gift or will he or she be reimbursed?◇ Will marital income and assets accumulated together be owned jointly or by a different arrangement?◇ What are your views on non-monetary contributions to the marriage, like raising children or managing the household?◇ Will you file joint taxes or separate taxes?◇ If one of you owes spousal support or child support from a previous marriage, will those payments be made from joint or separate property? |

