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Certified by the Law Society of Upper Canada as a family law specialist and trained as a family mediator, Jennifer Shuber represents individual clients and mediates and arbitrates comprehensive family law disputes, achieving superior results through skilled negotiation and advocacy. Jennifer's education and professional and life experiences contribute to her unique ability to handle the most complex and sensitive family law matters.

FAMILY LAW: MAKING AN INFORMED DECISION

BASMAN SMITH LLP BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

Divorce is often described as a “lose-lose” proposition. Although it can be difficult and emotional, divorce can help you make the best of a bad situation. To do so, you must be aware of the impact of your decisions.

Talk to a Lawyer: The right lawyer can make the process shorter, less painful, and more cost-effective, while providing advice on your rights, what to expect in the legal process, and how to achieve your goals. A family law expert will help you make informed custody, support, and property decisions – decisions that will impact your family’s future well-being.

Court is an option, but it is not the only option. In fact, most family law cases settle without going to court, so your lawyer should be equally comfortable in a settlement meeting or a courtroom. If you want mediation or arbitration, say so. If you want an amicable divorce, instruct your lawyer accordingly. Don’t retain Cruella De Vil if you want Mary Poppins! It’s your case. Counsel advises, but does not make the decision.

Know the Facts: Bad choices are made out of fear, or when one is operating without all the facts. For example, many parents worry about divorce’s impact on their children. Research,

however, confirms that conflict, not divorce, is what is bad for children. A child’s well-being is influenced more by family conflict than by family structure, so the less fighting they are exposed to, the happier and better adjusted they will be.

If parents can work through problems and enjoy a healthy and happy relationship, that is great for kids. However, if there is ongoing unresolved conflict, having happy parents in two different homes is better for children than having unhappy parents in the same home.

Yes, your divorce will be tough on your children, but it doesn’t have to be harmful to them. Ask your lawyer to recommend programs and services of benefit to you and your children. Working through the divorce process with a family law specialist will help you be the best parent you can be before, during, and after divorce.



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