



A Compassionate Guide to Separation

Understanding Separation

Separation is a significant life change that can be emotionally and financially challenging. Whether you are married or in a de facto relationship, deciding to separate is never easy. It's important to take things step by step and ensure you have the right support and information to navigate this transition.

Key Steps After Separation

1

Recognising the Decision to Separate

- Separation happens when one or both partners decide to end the relationship.
- While there's no legal requirement to document separation, having a clear date can be helpful for financial and legal matters.

2

Sorting Out Living Arrangements

- Deciding who stays in the family home can be difficult, and emotions may run high.
- If you need to continue living under the same roof, setting clear boundaries can help reduce stress

3

Caring for Your Children

- Children's well-being should always come first.
- Creating a parenting plan can provide structure and reassurance during this time of change.
- Open and honest communication with your children, in an age-appropriate way, can help them feel safe and supported.

4

Dividing Assets and Debts Fairly

- It's natural to feel overwhelmed when thinking about finances.
- Make a list of what you and your partner own and owe, and seek legal advice before making any major financial decisions.

- You may be entitled to financial support, such as child support or spousal maintenance.
- It's also a good time to review and update your will, insurance policies, and superannuation beneficiaries to reflect your new circumstances.

- You don't have to go through this alone. A family lawyer can help you understand your rights and options.
- Counselling and support networks can also be invaluable in helping you process the emotional impact of separation.

Common Questions

Do I need a formal agreement?

A written agreement, such as a Binding Financial Agreement or Consent Orders, can provide clarity and help prevent future disputes, making it easier to move forward.

How long before I can apply for divorce?

You must be separated for at least 12 months before applying for divorce in Australia. Taking this time to reflect and plan can be beneficial for your future.

What if my ex-partner and I disagree?

Disagreements are common, but they don't have to lead to conflict. Mediation can help you find solutions that work for everyone involved, especially if children are affected. If an agreement isn't possible, legal action may be necessary.

You Are Not Alone

Separation is a difficult journey, but with the right guidance and support, you can navigate it with confidence. We're here to help you through this process with care and understanding.

If you need assistance, reach out to us for expert legal advice tailored to your situation.



SYNERGY LEGAL

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