

# FAMILY LAW NEWSLETTER

Paula J. Goforth, Certified Legal  
Specialist – Family

Topic – FAMILY LAW  
Attorney Advertisement

## *Why do I need an attorney when my spouse and I have an agreement regarding the terms of our divorce?*

Let's face it, California family law is complex and complicated. There are many resources that can assist you in filing the paperwork needed for your divorce without an attorney. This does not mean you should proceed with your divorce without first obtaining legal advice from an experienced family law attorney. An alarmingly large number of my clients have come to me after they have entered into an agreement without any legal advice and a Judgment has been entered. In some cases, clients have come to me early enough so that a Judgment could be set aside, but the

*"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."*

*Benjamin Franklin*

time to do so is very short and many times it is too late to undo the mistakes. If your spouse and you have an agreement, seek legal advice to be sure you are not inadvertently and unintentionally waiving any rights. An hour with an experienced family law attorney such as myself could save you thousands of dollars in future litigation.

Call our office today to discuss how we can help you to protect yourself in a mediated or amicable divorce.

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Visit our website at:

[www.goforthfamilylaw.com](http://www.goforthfamilylaw.com)

*Mediation can be a cost saver.*

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Many divorcing couples who have an idea about how they want to settle obtain the services of a mediator. There are many mediators that are not licensed attorneys and are not adequately trained in the law. A lot of family lawyers will provide services to couples to mediate their divorce. This can save costs in the long run because a family lawyer mediator can quickly and accurately prepare the paperwork needed. Even if your mediator is a licensed attorney he or she cannot give you or your spouse legal advice. At a minimum, before you sign it, have your mediated agreement reviewed by an independent family law attorney so that you understand the legal consequences of your agreement.