



Maria's story

Maria first came to see me 11 years after she and her ex had separated.

When they separated, they divided up their assets amicably and without any advice from lawyers. Both of them were happy with the outcome and moved on with their lives, or did they?

Neither of them were in a hurry to get a divorce until Maria's former husband wanted to remarry. Maria happily signed the joint Divorce Application believing this was the last step in their separation.

But one year later, just before he ran out of time, Maria's husband filed an Application in the Family Court seeking a property settlement from Maria. Since separating their finances, Maria had gone on to make sound investments and to save for

her retirement. Her ex-husband was in a much worse financial position than when they separated. He and his new partner went on to have more children and he found himself in considerable debt having to upsize to accommodate his new family.

What you need to know is, even if you reach an amicable agreement with your ex, unless you formalise your property settlement through the Court, there is always the possibility that your ex will try to get a second bite of the cherry, just as Maria's husband did.

So, no matter how friendly you are with your ex and how much you want to keep lawyers out of your settlement discussions, I urge you to take some advice about the pitfalls you can avoid simply by formalising your agreement.



FREE 10 MINUTE CONSULTATION

For a **FREE** confidential 10 minute phone consultation, call Managing Director, Fiona Reid.

Fiona Reid is the Managing Director of Reid Family Lawyers, a boutique specialist family law firm with offices in Brookvale and Surry Hills. She is supported by a team of expert family lawyers. The firm has a wealth of experience in all facets of family law including complex property matters, parenting matters, child support and spousal maintenance issues, relocation, de facto and same sex issues, surrogacy and adoption.



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