



Our Family Law attorneys at Kelley Kronenberg bring more than 30 combined years of experience in the successful legal representation of a vast scope of family law clients. With a practice that extends throughout the state of Florida, our attorneys handle both routine and complex cases, using top-notch advocacy and negotiation skills to represent individuals in every aspect of family law. Our family law attorneys, paralegals and support staff are focused on helping clients with all aspects of their family law and divorce proceedings and related issues. Whether you are going through a divorce, have become involved in a child visitation or support dispute, have paternity concerns or have problems involving your same-sex families, we will work diligently to help you identify and resolve your issues as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Divorce is a complicated process that has serious personal and financial implications, especially for couples who have accumulated significant assets or own a business. We understand how critical your family law needs are and we are dedicated to handling our clients' family law matters with compassion, cost-effectiveness, and sensitivity. Our Family Law Attorneys are also adept at providing comprehensive divorce services tailored to the unique needs of high net worth clients and their families. Our Family Law attorneys offer personal attention and legal strength during the negotiation, mediation, and litigation of all family disputes. We are committed to providing responsible representation to pursue the most favorable judgment or settlement possible.

We have handled a wide variety of divorce and family law cases and are prepared to assist you with legal concerns that involve:

- ~~Child~~ **Guardian ad litem**
- ~~Asset~~ **Protection**
- ~~Mediation/Dispute~~ **Resolution**
- ~~Child Support~~ **of Agreements/ Final Judgments**
- ~~Parental Responsibility/Caretime Plans~~ **Uncontested Divorce**
- ~~Domestic Violence~~ **Protection**
- ~~Domestic Partnership Agreements~~ **Non-Financial Agreements**
- ~~Equitable~~ **Distribution (Assets and Liabilities)**
- ~~Family Law~~ **Family Issues**
- **Time Sharing/ Visitation with Minor Children**

Handling these complicated family law issues can be a challenging task to face alone. As part of a full service national firm, our Family Law attorneys frequently call on other attorneys from the firm's Business and Commercial Litigation, Estate Planning and Real Property Litigation Departments, to provide a comprehensive and unified approach to complex family law matters and litigation. This collaborative approach gives our clients the edge that few other firms can replicate.

With the best interests and well-being of your family being our priority, the assistance and experience of our Family Law attorneys can be invaluable in your search for resolutions and closure to all aspects of family law matters.

Alimony

Alimony, commonly known as spousal support, is a way for former spouses to maintain their way of life following a divorce. In situations where one spouse has become dependent on the other during the marriage, he or she may be entitled to temporary or permanent alimony. The expense of alimony payments and the form of maintenance will depend on many factors, including the length of the marriage, age, marital lifestyle, amount of time separated and employment skills. Alimony payments can be made in several ways including lump sum payments, durational payments, rehabilitative payments, bridge the gap payments or payments in a combination of

forms.

Agreeing on the amount of alimony and the type of payment can be very difficult for many people and is a common reason many divorce cases end up in court. Alimony payments can affect many aspects of your life. Understanding alimony is essential to reaching a divorce settlement that is agreeable to you. Our Family Law Attorneys have the knowledge and experience to resolve all alimony disputes on behalf of our clients successfully.

Asset Protection

There are several steps you can take to ensure your assets are protected in a divorce. Many of our clients who own businesses or have substantial assets, and are going through a divorce, are concerned about the protection of their property. Often, high net worth divorces are severely contested because of the value of the property that is at stake.

Our Family Law attorneys are prepared to assist clients with high net worth or valuable property assets and help them retain as much property as possible during and after a divorce. We are prepared to advise our clients regarding the protection of their real estate property, small or closely-held businesses, unique collections, stocks, bonds, securities, and inheritances. Our Family Law attorneys have the skill, knowledge, and experience in Asset Protection, which allows our clients to feel more confident while going through a divorce and engaging in the complex property division.

Business Valuations

Business Valuation is the process and procedure used to estimate the economic value of an owner's interest in a business. When couples are involved in complex divorces, analyzing, investigating and appraising the value of a substantial business, properties and resources is necessary to ensure an equitable division of assets. Whether you are a business owner, your spouse is the owner of a company, or you and your spouse operate a business as partners, a business or professional practice is often the most significant asset of the marital estate.

Our firm's vast experience in Family Law and Business Valuation is complemented by our ability to retain the many types of experts these cases often require, including forensic accountants, tax lawyers, and fraud examiners. With our in-depth knowledge of valuation terminology, methods, and processes, we can protect our clients' business interests throughout a divorce.

Child Support/Child Issues

In a divorce involving children, Florida law requires that each parent has the right to remain actively involved in their children's lives. This includes a starting point of equal/equal parental input for establishing life values and making decisions affecting the child's welfare and well-being (called "parental responsibility"). Florida law provides parents with shared parental responsibility *unless* shared parental responsibility is detrimental to the children. Most people think of the time spent with their children as "custody," however, Florida law recognizes this time as a component of a "Parenting Plan." All cases involving children require the creation of a Parenting Plan, either by the parties or by the Court.

Both parents are legally required to financially support their minor children until each child reaches 18 years of age (or no later than 19 years of age if the child is in high school with a reasonable expectation of graduating by the age of 19), marries, joins the Armed Forces, dies or becomes emancipated. Florida child support is typically a mathematically determined sum based upon the parties' time-sharing arrangement stated in their Parenting Plan and the individual parents' incomes, in addition to other factors and variables. Whether you will be paying child support or receiving it, our years of experience will help parents understand how the Florida child support guidelines are calculated and how significant changes in the lives of parents can affect child support payment.

Dissolution of Marriage/ Contested and Uncontested Divorce

In Florida, the formal term for divorce is "dissolution," and dissolution is governed by Florida Statutes which are analyzed by the case law from the courts that interpret the statutes. Actually obtaining the dissolution is not difficult, as only one party has to testify that the marriage is over. The major issues in the dissolution are "equitable distribution" (splitting your assets and liabilities), "time-sharing" of the children (formerly "custody"), "alimony," and "child support."

Our Family Law attorneys are prepared to assist clients in both uncontested and contested dissolution of marriage actions. Often after receiving legal advice and gaining an understanding of the law, parties can resolve their dissolution issues, resulting in an uncontested divorce where both parties are in agreement on all matters, and the court's role is to approve their divorce agreement. Unlike an uncontested dissolution of marriage, a contested dissolution of marriage is a divorce in which the parties have not been able to resolve all issues of the case. Divorces may be a time of tension and uncertainty. There are many significant decisions involved in a divorce, and our attorneys help clients achieve the best results possible while guiding the parties through the divorce process.

Domestic Violence

We take a compassionate yet strong approach on behalf of our clients who face domestic violence issues. We understand the extreme emotional impact that allegations of domestic abuse can have on family members, particularly if you are subject to a restraining order that

limits your access to your loved ones.

Victims or alleged abusers need the help of our experienced Family Law attorneys to handle cases involving incidents of domestic violence. Our attorneys take the time to listen to the details of the situation and put together an effective strategy to get the best outcome for our clients. We provide advice, guidance, and advocacy to find a resolution that protects the rights and safety of all parties involved.

Domestication of Foreign Judgments

"Foreign judgments" are family court orders made in other states or countries. In many circumstances, a party may reside in Florida while a family law judgment has been previously obtained in another state or country. A party's ability to modify or enforce judgments from other states is often contingent on having the judgment "domesticated" so that it can be handled in Florida. Foreign judgments may be domesticated, modified, and enforced in Florida upon the proper procedure and appropriate circumstances. Our Family Law attorneys will assist you with domesticating judgments if you have moved to Florida from another state and work to enforce or modify judgments made both in Florida and other states.

Equitable Distribution (Assets and Liabilities)

Florida law has established the principle of the equitable distribution of marital assets (bank accounts, stock accounts, real property, retirement accounts, business interests and the like) and liabilities (debts of all types, personal loans, credit cards, mortgages and the like) in a divorce case. The law requires the Court to presume that the distribution of marital assets and liabilities to the parties must be equal. The equitable distribution statute creates a procedure that the court should follow in dividing the marital assets and liabilities. The Court is required to divide each party's assets and liabilities into two categories: matrimonial assets and liabilities and non-marital assets and liabilities. Florida Statute defines marital assets and liabilities as all assets acquired or enhanced in value and liabilities or debts incurred during the marriage individually by either spouse or jointly by both of them. Non-marital assets and liabilities are those acquired before the marriage, after the filing of the dissolution action or during the marriage if from a source unconnected with or unrelated to the marriage itself.

Although the statute begins with a presumption that the distribution must be equal, the law enumerates factors the Court should consider in making an unequal distribution of marital assets and liabilities. These factors include:

- The contribution to the marriage by each spouse, including contributions to the education and care of children and services as homemaker
- The length of the marriage
- The economic circumstances of the parties
- Any interruption of either party's educational opportunity or professional career, and the contribution of one spouse to the personal career or educational opportunity of the other spouse
- The desirability of retaining any asset, including an interest in a business, corporation, or professional practice, free from any claim or interference by the other party
- The desirability and feasibility of retaining the marital home as a residence for any dependent child of the marriage, or any other party, when it would be equitable to do so, and it is in the best interest of the child or that party
- Any other factors necessary to ensure equity and justice between the parties

With the assistance of investigators, forensic accountants, business valuers, and appraisers, our attorneys will work to uncover undisclosed assets and determine the true value of such assets and liabilities. We assist in evaluating and analyzing assets and liabilities to help achieve a fair property division and will develop and evaluate proposed settlements that are in the best interest of our clients.

Family Law

Our Family Law attorneys are dedicated to providing our clients with experienced and capable representation. We offer a range of family law services on issues such as parenting plans and child support, modifications of agreements, paternity, time-sharing/visitation, domestic violence issues, prenuptial and post-marital agreements and full family law services to same-sex families who are now legally recognized in the state of Florida. We are advocates for our clients and have experience in alternative dispute resolution processes, like mediation or the newly recognized "private trials", which can save the client a tremendous amount of money, time and emotional trauma. We always aim to advise and provide our clients with the most efficient, cost-effective and innovative ways to settle family law disputes.

Guardian Ad Litem

In a court of law, Guardian Ad Litem literally means, "guardian for the suit." Guardians are appointed by the Court upon the request of either party to represent the best interests of the children. A Guardian Ad Litem is an attorney appointed by a judge to assist the Court in making decisions for the children; they are empowered to investigate the entire background, familial relationships, living conditions, and any related matter in order to make a recommendation to the Court as to what is in the best interests of the child regarding placement, time sharing and other matters that will be ruled upon by the Court.

In many cases, the parties in a divorce arguing for time with their children tend to be focused in their own interests along with their respective grounds for claiming rights. A Guardian is able to act as a true "neutral" and collect evidence to assist the Court in determining

what is in the child's best interest and serve as a voice for the child. Our Family Law attorneys are experienced and dedicated to serving as advocates for children's needs and they regularly serve as a Guardian Ad Litem at the request of family courts.

Litigation

Our attorneys recognize that sometimes there are no other alternatives or options but to take your family law case to court. We are committed to representing your interests with integrity, honesty and ethically. We always aim to achieve a desirable result on behalf of our clients while protecting their family relationships.

The Family Law attorneys at Kelley Kronenberg understand that matters involving family law litigation are confusing, frightening, and stressful for our clients and their families, and we are committed to advising our clients through this process and keeping them informed every step of the way.

Our Family Law attorneys can represent you in Court for all family law matters including the following family law issues:

- Paternity Actions
- Child Support
- Divorce/ Dissolution of Marriages
- Relocation Issues
- Domestication of Foreign Judgments/Children
- Equitable Distribution of Assets and Liabilities

Mediation/Dispute Resolution

The use of a Mediator can be instrumental in assisting both parties to reach an amicable agreement and avoiding the steps of traditional litigation when it comes to family and matrimonial issues. Mediation is beneficial to many couples considering separation or divorce, creating workable parenting plans, simplifying the division of assets and liabilities, and developing agreeable child support and alimony payments.

The primary goal of our Family Law mediation services is to help minimize animosity between the parties, especially when children are involved. We will mediate to achieve divorce settlements, parenting plans, pre-marital agreements, post-nuptial agreements, and to help our clients reach a desirable result in all family law matters.

Modification of Agreements/Final Judgments

The conditions of an Agreement or Final Judgment are based on the circumstances that existed at the time the judgment was rendered. Over time, a party's circumstances may change and modifications of an existing Agreement or Final Judgment may become necessary. There are many types of life changes that lead to modifications of Agreements and Final Orders, including the loss of a job, remarriage, economic hardships, increases in financial circumstances, illness or physical injury, relocation, a change in a dependent's status, disability and death.

Our Family Law attorneys assist our clients in modifying divorce agreements as they pertain to alimony, child support or time-sharing. Our knowledge of family law in Florida and our experience affords us the ability to make compelling arguments on our clients' behalf and we are committed to providing our clients with best possible outcome in every case.

Parental Responsibility

When a Court is making decisions about the responsibilities each parent will have after a divorce, the primary objective is protecting the best interests of the children. Generally, a Court will presume that both parents should be given the opportunity to have an impact on their child's life. When parents have shared parental responsibility, they both have a say in making major decisions regarding the child's upbringing, including decisions about education, healthcare, religion and other important life decisions.

Alternatively, if either parent is deemed by the Court as unfit to co-parent safely and effectively because of issues such as emotional problems, drug or alcohol addictions or criminal history, the Court may award sole parental responsibility to the other parent. Our attorneys advise and assist our clients in determining the best means to effectively meet all their parenting goals.

Paternity Actions

More than half of all children in the United States are born to unmarried parents. Establishing paternity and parental rights and obligations is a very important aspect of raising healthy children. Mothers and fathers each have a responsibility to support the child and a right to maintain a strong parent-child relationship. Likewise, children have a right to a relationship with both of their parents.

When an unmarried woman has a child, a paternity action is often needed to establish parental rights. In disputed cases, a DNA test may be used to prove whether or not someone is the biological father and the results of the DNA test are then used by the court as evidence of parentage. Paternity establishes parental rights that carry a legal relationship with certain financial obligations and benefits including, medical coverage, access to benefits or inheritance rights. Establishing paternity provides a child with eligibility to receive child support, legal rights involving death benefits, probate and the settlement of the father's estate, inheritance of certain assets, coverage under the father's health insurance plan, and access to father's medical records for health purposes.

Once paternity is established, a father may seek a parenting plan or parenting time with his children, or a mother may file for child support for children. Our Family Law attorneys represent clients interested in asserting visitation rights or seeking child support for children in their care. We prepare all the necessary forms and documentation on behalf of our clients needed for requesting a paternity test through the court and assist in filing for child support or establishing parenting rights for all children.

Pre and Post Nuptial Agreements

Before marriage, many couples desire an arrangement be in place for addressing financial issues in the event of separation, divorce or death. Under Florida law, this can be accomplished through a premarital agreement, also known as an antenuptial or prenuptial agreement. Similarly, married couples who wish to engage in planning for a divorce can do so through a postnuptial agreement and address all of their issues before either of them files a petition for dissolution of marriage or even while their marriage remains stable.

Regardless of the type of agreement, it is important that the agreement is drafted properly so that it is enforceable in court. Our Family Law attorneys are experienced in preparing these agreements and litigating their enforceability and will draft a pre or postnuptial agreement to suit the individual client's needs. Our extensive experience in prenuptial and postnuptial agreements enables us to assist our clients regarding their goals and the protection of their assets. Alternatively, if you are the recipient of a marriage agreement, we will review it and identify provisions contrary to your best interests.

Relocation

When a parent moves away following a divorce, it requires major adjustment on the part of all parties involved, including both parents, children, grandparents and extended family members. Relocation disputes often are difficult to resolve. Parental relocation raises significant time sharing issues, especially if the relocation is out of state. If one parent is contemplating moving more than fifty (50) miles from their current residence, a formal request for relocation must be filed with the Court. Our Family Law attorneys represent both the relocating and the non-relocating parents. If you are in this situation, you should consider consulting with our Family Law attorneys.

We have extensive experience handling relocation issues on behalf of parents wanting to relocate and on behalf of parents remaining. Our attorneys address the facts of the case and consider the interests of all parties, along with the best interests of the children, in an effort to effectively settle the relocation issue. Whether our client wishes to fight parental relocation or is the parent seeking relocation with a child, we always strive to resolve the conflict quickly and professionally. Our Family Law attorneys always work to arrive at a solution most satisfactory to our client. However, if a desirable resolution cannot be obtained, we are prepared to aggressively protect our client's rights in court.

Same-Sex Families

Florida now recognizes Same-Sex marriage as a constitutional right. This new enactment will bring with it all rights of parents and obligations of spouses not previously available to many partners. Our Family Law attorneys are on the cutting edge of all family issues that will now arise in this new area of the law, which includes: step-parent adoptions, prenuptial agreements, post-nuptial agreements, alimony, child support, spousal estate planning and every other right and obligation not previously available to this newly recognized family unit.

Time Sharing with Minor Children/Parenting Plan

Parents are often concerned about getting enough time with their children during and after a divorce. Under Florida law, the time a parent spends with their children is called timesharing. The Florida legislature enacted laws to eliminate the terms "primary" and "secondary" parents and "visitation". Now obligations and rights involving minor children are contained in a Parenting Plan that must be agreed to between the parents or created by the judge.

Establishing child timesharing arrangements in a divorce or other type of separation are often the most difficult challenges parents must face. Courts deciding these matters will always make a decision based on the best interests of the children. Some factors the Court considers to support the best interests of the children when establishing time-sharing include:

- The capacity and disposition of each parent regarding facilitating and encouraging a close continued parent-child relationship
- The length of time the child has lived in a stable home environment
- The mental, physical and moral health of both parents
- The reasonable preference of the child
- Domestic violence, substance abuse or other abuse knowledge of both parents

The Florida legislature considers a multitude of these critical factors to ensure that the child's best interests remain the focus of family law proceedings and not the parents' personal agendas. Our Family Law attorneys will help in guiding you through the process to protect your interests and the best interests of your children.