



SEPARATION CREATION SYSTEM™ - MODULE 1 - GUIDE TO THE INSTRUCTIONAL AUDIO



FACTS TO CARRY-FORWARD FROM OUR KICK-OFF CALL:

There are 3 reasons for separating, and you must know which type of “separator” you are:

- Type #1 Separator: Using separation as a productive tool to get some space while working on the marriage.
- Type #2 Separator: Using separation as a long-term alternative to divorce, allowing spouses to stay on the same health insurance and to keep assets invested rather than liquidating and dividing them.
- Type #3 Separator: Using separation as a short-term “waiting period” to segue toward divorce.

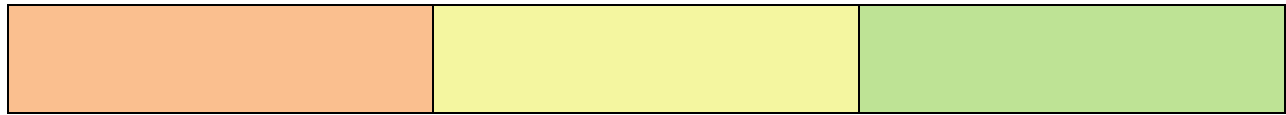
Why the Separation Agreement process fails through “normal attorney” methods:

- IF SPOUSES HAD NOT YET DISCUSSED A SEPARATION AGREEMENT:
Failing to properly “greasing the wheels” + Failing to assess the quality of marital communications = Huge Likelihood for a rejected Agreement
- IF SPOUSES HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED A SEPARATION AGREEMENT
One-sided “negotiation-style” drafting undermines amicable mood of compromise + erodes open communication and transparency + sabotages already-fragile lines of communication between spouses = Huge Likelihood for a rejected Agreement

THE SOLUTION TO PROPEL US FORWARD THIS WEEK:

Module 1 Action Steps:

- A. Go down the left-hand column and cross-out any topics that 100% do not apply to you. If you’re not sure about a topic, then don’t cross it out because we need to confirm whether it’s still open for discussion.



B. Use your 3-Part Conversation Starter as an ice-breaker to open the Separation discussion with your spouse:

1. Hey, I was doing some reading, and I learned that // or//
Hey, I was poking around the internet , and I learned that // or//
Hey, I was at a support group meeting the other day, and I learned that
2. I learned that separation is a [really helpful temporary method to work on the marriage if we coordinate with a counselor //or// an alternative to divorce //or// next step for us to wind-down the marriage] but apparently it's really financially/legally/parentally risky to be "so exposed" while we're living apart without any protections in place, so I wanted to explore us doing a written Agreement together
3. If I do to the research, and bring you the talking points, would you go over them with me? It will save us tons of time/money/stress if we cooperate ourselves. Otherwise we have to pay major \$\$ for lawyers to do this, and we can discuss this ourselves.

C. Pick an individual time (if possible) to discuss each of your topics, and ask "Do you think we can calmly discuss ___[insert topic here]___?" Commemorate your spouse's answer Any answer at all goes into the Green or Yellow columns. If there's resistance, commemorate your notes in the Yellow Column.

REMINDER: DO NOT EXPOSE THESE WORKSHEETS TO YOUR SPOUSE. Instead, handwrite your own talking points on a separate sheet of paper, so your spouse never sees these colorful worksheets.

HELPFUL HINTS:

- Wearing light colors psychologically seems less sinister when discussing legal topics.
- Save the difficult or argumentative "hot button" topics for last.
- Do your best to mention the topics one-at-a-time, preferably in separate conversations.
- Clear the path to effective communication by avoiding:
 - Message Overload: avoid sharing too much info at one time; instead take the topics one-at-a-time
 - Physical Barriers: try speaking face-to-face; avoid talking when kids are present;
 - Ambiguity: avoid using complex words or legalese; instead talk in regular vernacular directly to the level of your spouse.



- Physiological Barriers: avoid discussing this at times when your spouse is tired, hungry, in pain, etc.; instead choose times when you're both alert and attentive.

This week's Mantra: "Stop Assuming, Start Assessing"

BRING YOUR QUESTIONS TO THE MODULE 1 COACHING CALL