



## Evaluating a Separation Agreement

While you should certainly ask for your legal counsel's advice, you are ultimately responsible for evaluating any draft agreement. Ask yourself these questions when considering a separation agreement:

Y  N  Is this agreement fair? Apply this question to yourself – don't try to guess what your spouse might think about the agreement. Do you personally feel it is fair?

Y  N  Is it in my best interests?

Y  N  It is in my children's best interests?

Y  N  Can I afford this agreement – now and in the future?

Y  N  Is there a clearly-stated method to collect or enforce financial obligations? (For example – copies of insurance statements to confirm beneficiary changes, deadlines for transfer of property, process for spousal support payment and collection)

Y  N  Am I rejecting this agreement because important provisions are missing or very unfavorable to me? Or is it possible I am frustrated about something else that needs to be addressed?

Y  N  Is it worth additional time and money to renegotiate? What am I willing to give up in order to get the missing items?

---

---

Y  N  Do I think I will be better off going to court instead of agreeing to settle?

Y  N  Is the financial and emotional toll of not settling too high for me or my children?