



About Matthew Crider, J.D.

Matthew Crider formed [Crider Law PC](#) in 1999 so he could help individuals and business owners by providing creative solutions and be their trusted advisor and legal counselor. He serves his clients by listening closely to their goals, dreams and concerns and working with them to develop superior and comprehensive estate and asset protection plans. His estate planning practice focuses on preserving and growing wealth by providing comprehensive, highly personalized estate planning counsel to couples, families, individuals and businesses.

Should you get a prenup? You probably already have one you may not like

By Matthew Crider, JD | Family Wealth Protection Attorney

The last thing most couples want to do in the midst of wedding planning is to bring up the sore subject of money -- and whether they should have a prenuptial agreement, often called a prenup.

But if the marriage does end in divorce, you may wish you had that conversation. And the way to get it started is to point out that if you don't draw one up, you will get one anyway -- one that California has in place for you and everyone else.

According to an article in [Forbes](#), if you divorce without a prenup, your assets will be divided according to the laws of your state, not according to what you believe to be fair or right.

As an example, the article says to suppose you have a piece of art or a vacation home or some article that's been in your family for generations and has special meaning to you, no matter its actual value.

In a prenup, you can specify that such articles are to be maintained as your separate property.

The same thing can apply if you own a business. A prenup can be seen as a way of divorce-proofing your business.

That said, the prenup must be drawn up correctly. It must be written and executed and must be signed voluntarily, not under coercion. And it cannot be too lopsided in favor of one party or the other.

But if drawn up correctly, the article maintains, a prenup can be good for a marriage -- and for a divorce if it comes to that.