An Artful Lawyer
Jennifer Dixon

Jennifer Dixon is a Shareholder at Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A., where she practices in the areas of family and child advocacy. Dixon is an active member of the local arts community, serving on the Board of Directors of The Repertory Theatre of Florida, and is a frequent speaker on a variety of topics related to family law.

Profile

Jennifer Dixon, Shareholder

Jennifer Dixon joined Lowndes in 2004 and has practiced in the areas of family and child advocacy. She has been particularly active in the local arts community, serving on the Board of Directors of The Repertory Theatre of Florida, and is a frequent speaker on a variety of topics related to family law.

About The Firm

Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A.

THE FIRM is an artful lawyer, representing clients in the areas of family and child advocacy. Dixon is an active member of the local arts community, serving on the Board of Directors of The Repertory Theatre of Florida, and is a frequent speaker on a variety of topics related to family law.

In addition to her legal work, Dixon has served on the Board of Directors of the Orlando Repertory Theatre (The REP) since 2010. She won the role of first female to chair the board in 2017. She has also served as a board member for various other arts organizations, including the Orlando Museum of Art and the Orlando Symphony.

Dixon is a frequent speaker and writer on topics related to family law, child advocacy, and the arts. She has been named a “Rising Star” by Super Lawyers magazine and has been listed in Best Lawyers in America.

She received her law degree from the University of Florida College of Law in 2004 and was admitted to the Florida Bar the same year.

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The Firm

Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A.

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What are your business needs? Modern business requires ongoing engagement and responsiveness. Jennifer Dixon is a shareholder at the firm, where she focuses on family law and child advocacy. She is an active member of the local arts community, serving on the Board of Directors of The Repertory Theatre of Florida, and is a frequent speaker on a variety of topics related to family law.

In This Issue

Preprenatal Agreements — Who Needs Them?

By Crystal Espinosa Buit

Preprenatal agreements are contracts between prospective spouses before marriage, which govern certain issues in the event of death or divorce, such as property division, spousal support, and rights of a surviving spouse. These agreements are often vital to protecting yourself and your family, in the long run. Additionally, open communication is a crucial component to any successful relationship. Dealing with many of these issues, the concept guarantees everyone is on the same page as to how financial and other critical areas will be handled during the marriage. So who really needs a PNA and why? What do they entail, and how can they protect you? Let’s briefly discuss.

WHO?

Most often, we think of a celebrity or wealthy individual when envisioning who needs a PNA. But PNAs are not limited to a select few, and can often help many with their long-term strategic financial planning. By way of example, those who are in the process of solidifying their career or establishing successes — and, along the way, building a notable net worth — will often secure a PNA in order to protect their assets, such as business interests, real estate, or personal items that have special meaning or value to them, but for the future. These assets will inevitably increase in value during the course of the marriage, often due to “emotional” effort, therefore conceivably making them subject to equitable distribution during divorce. Those who have previously been married or have children from a prior relationship may also want a PNA to protect those children’s interests. Similarly, parents or family members will often help secure a PNA before a marriage to protect their share of marital family assets, such as a family trust or business, as well as potential inheritances.

WHAT?

People also have misconceptions about what a PNA entails, but the truth is that a PNA can be as expansive or as limited as you want. Most often, PNAs do cover as much as possible, including how assets will be divided in the event of divorce, usually with all assets acquired before the marriage and even during the marriage remaining intact as long as individuals separate, “non-marital” asset (for a different set of assumptions about the future. For example, if I want a PNA that covers only the first two years of a marriage, I would state that in the agreement. If I am not married, I would state that in the agreement.

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Thinking You’re Headed Toward Divorce? Here’s What You Need To Know

By Derren Ciaglia
derren.ciaglia@lowndes-law.com

Our marriage is in question and you are contemplating divorce. Before you go down this path, here are a few things to consider.

Q. I’m overwhelmed, where do I even start?
A. You do not have to go through the divorce process alone. Many people think that this means that you are filing for divorce or that you have to file for divorce. A consultation with an attorney can provide you with the best options to consider.

Q. Can I do anything to prepare for a divorce?
A. Yes, you can. You can prepare for your future. This can involve a financial plan, contingency planning, and thinking of the worst-case scenario.

Q. Are there ways to resolve issues in a divorce without going to court and having a judge decide?
A. In most cases, mediation is a successful process. Mediation is an informal, non-adversarial process where a neutral third party helps to facilitate the resolution of the issues in a divorce.

Q. Have I minor children, how is child support determined?
A. Child support is determined based on the child’s needs and the parents’ incomes. The court will consider various factors, such as the number of children, the parents’ incomes, and the child’s needs.

Q. I am concerned about co-parenting and what is best for my children?
A. Child custody is a complex issue. It involves the parents’ relationship with their children and the children’s emotional well-being.

Q. Is there a time limit for a divorce action?
A. In Florida, a divorce action cannot be filed for at least one year after the date the petition is filed.

Q. I’m interested in a divorce, but I don’t know where to start.
A. Start by consulting with a divorce attorney. They can provide you with the necessary information to make informed decisions about your future.

Q. I’m thinking about a divorce, but I’m not sure if I want to go through with it.
A. Consider consulting with a mental health professional, such as a therapist or counselor, to help you decide if a divorce is the right path for you.