

## **Why get a legal separation?**

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One reason why some couples choose legal separation instead of is to maintain eligibility for benefits which only married couples can receive. For instance, a legal separation may allow spouses to remain on the same health insurance policies. If one of the parties is in poor health or injured, the only medical insurance available to them may be through the other party's medical insurance plan. Generally, employer health insurance plans do not extend coverage services to non-family members. Accordingly, the parties may elect to be legally separated but remain married.

Another reason why some couples may choose to be legally separated is because of their religious beliefs. For individuals with religious or moral prohibitions against divorce, a legal separation allows them to separate their lives, obtain custody and support orders, but still remain married. However, it is important to note that both parties must agree to the legal separation. Oftentimes when a spouse initiates a legal separation rather than a divorce proceeding citing religious beliefs, the responding party responds by asking for a divorce instead. Therefore, couples who are certain that their marriage will ultimately be dissolved, may want to avoid going through the mechanics of filing for a legal separation and file for dissolution instead.

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Timothy Durkin joined JacksonWhite in 2010, and quickly established himself as a highly effective family law attorney with the perfect balance of assertiveness and compassion. Tim is often complimented for his dedication to professional service, as he works closely with his clients to keep them informed, listen to their needs and involve them in the decision making process.

Tim handles all types of family law, including divorces, paternity actions, child custody, child support, relocation and jurisdiction issues, adoptions, termination of parental rights and parental severance actions, title 8 guardianships, spousal maintenance cases, division of marital property and debts, pre-nuptial agreements, post decree modifications and enforcement of custody and divorce orders, mediation services, grandparent visitation cases, and domestic violence issues. He is licensed to practice law in all Arizona State Courts, as well as the United States District Court, District of Arizona, and serves clients throughout the Phoenix metro area. To read more about what former clients are saying about hiring Tim, or to set up a free consultation, please visit [www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/arizona-family-law](http://www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/arizona-family-law).

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