

Preuptial Agreements May Be A Premonition Of Divorce

A wedding means "Aaaaaah, love is in the air." Or does it? Statistically, nearly half of marriages in America end in divorce. The rate of divorce for second and third marriages is even higher. Therefore, it might seem like a wise decision for couples to have a prenuptial agreement. The thought process is that a prenuptial agreement could potentially save the divorcing couple anguish, arguments, and thousands of dollars.

There's a flip side to prenuptial agreements. They provide a crevice for each person to keep one foot out the door, cultivating an on-going murmur of distrust. Neither mate is ever fully dedicated to the marriage. (There are some situations in which a prenuptial agreement is advisable, such as an older couple desiring to marry, both widowed and each owning substantial accumulated assets.)

As is true with most challenges in life, marriage being no exception, attitude is a self-fulfilling prophecy. If at the outset you believe you can achieve a set goal, the chances are high that you will. Think positively, you get a positive outcome. And vice versa. What can be guessed about a couple with a prenup?

A prenup is often recommended when a person of affluence marries an individual of modest means. In some ill-fated way, the document is supposed to serve as a guarantee that the individual of lesser worth isn't marrying the rich one for money. A prenup also is often advised when both parties possess great wealth. Again, the legal agreement is meant to serve as assurance against money-mongering. In other words, matrimony is being entered into under the suspicion that either the bride or groom or both are thieves!

In the case of a young married couple just setting out in life together, a prenup is illogical because there's usually little, if anything, to split. Home furnishings and kitchen utensils are about all they combine. If the marriage doesn't work, she's not likely to want his brown corduroy couches and matching recliner-chair nor is he likely to grovel for her non-stick pots and pans.

Inquiries with several different law firms disclose that attorneys charge an average of \$2,000 to \$3,000 minimum to draw up a prenuptial agreement, and the fee escalates depending on the amount and complexity of the assets of the individuals. A better investment for an engaged couple might be in marriage education courses, couples retreats, books on marriage, and other venues that will enhance and help solidify their relationship.

As evidenced by celebrity debacles, prenups don't necessarily hold water. Lawyers are often the ones who have everything to gain.

Marriage is not a contract. Marriage is intended to be a lifelong journey between two people who love each other and desire to jointly experience and explore all life has to offer. And when the road gets rocky, it's not a signal to whip out the prenup. A couple who is truly married has the will and determination and resolve to fix problems and find solutions—together.