Legal Terminology – Common Terms Used in Utah Divorce Cases

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Going through a divorce is a daunting process. It's confusing enough without struggling to figure out what the documentation and courtroom interactions mean because you don't know the legal terminology.

Here's a glossary of legal terms used in <u>divorce cases</u>, to help you stay up to speed in your divorce proceeding.

Glossary of Legal Divorce Terms in Utah

A.D.R: Alternative Dispute Resolution. The use of mediation, arbitration, or other processes to settle a legal case in lieu of a courtroom trial.

Affidavit: A formal written document for submitting to the court a statement given under oath instead of testifying in person.

Alimony: <u>Alimony</u> is payments to a spouse or ex-spouse for his or her financial support sometimes during a divorce, after it is finalized, or both.

Allegation: A formal written accusation against a party submitted to the court for the purpose of proving to the court or jury that the allegation is true.

Annulment: A formal <u>dissolution of a marriage</u> by the court in which the marriage is declared to be nullified or canceled as if it had never occurred.

Arrearage: Unpaid child support or alimony that is past due for payment.

Appeal: To escalate a legal matter to a higher court seeking a reversal of a lower court's final decision.

Child Support: <u>Child Support</u> is Payments made by one parent to the other for the financial support of a child who is in the custody of and cared for by the parent being paid.

Common-Law Marriage: A legal status imposed on domestic unions between men and women in some states that may provide the rights and responsibilities of marriage, including the requirement to obtain a divorce if they choose to dissolve the relationship.

Contempt of Court: Any intentional disruption of the legal process including failing to obey a court order, or failing to appear when required, among other punishable offenses.

Contested Divorce: A divorce proceeding in which the <u>spouses cannot reach an</u> <u>agreement</u> about one or more sticking points so that the parties bring the matter(s) to the court for a legally binding decision.

Court Order: A formal written dictate from a court, issued by a judge.

Custody: Legal custody is the right to make decisions regarding a child's best interests, whereas <u>physical custody</u> is the right to have the child living with you and under your parental control.

Deposition: A written record of testimony taken from a witness who is under oath at a different location than the courtroom.

For Divorce Help in Utah, Call Wall Legal Solutions

For many years, <u>Wall & Wall Attorneys at Law, P.C.</u>, have been helping people through the difficulties of divorce in Salt Lake City Utah. Our goal is to help each client understand all their options and make the best possible decisions so that they and their families can move beyond divorce to a happier future. We listen to all the details of your situation, review your legal case, and help you determine your best options.

For the finest divorce attorney Utah has available, call <u>Wall & Wall Attorneys at Law</u> at (801) 441-2388, or <u>contact us here on our website</u> to set up a free legal consultation.