

# Jordan & Tell, LLP

www.jordantell.com

7340 Grace Dr, Suite 105  
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Phone: (443) 535-0040  
Fax: (443) 535-0940

**Practice Profile:** The law offices of Jordan & Tell have over thirty years experience and provide skilled and aggressive representation in connection with business and personal legal matters.

**Offices:** Jordan & Tell have two conveniently located offices. The firm's Howard County offices are located in Columbia's Simpsonville Mill office complex, 7340 Grace Drive, Columbia 21044, at the intersection of Route 32 and Cedar Lane, just four miles from the intersection of Route 95 and Route 32. The firm's Montgomery County offices are just steps from the Bethesda Metro Station at 4550 Montgomery Avenue, Suite 760N, Bethesda 20814.

**Managing Partners:** Marc L. Jordan, J.D., Univ. of Maryland, '84; Lt., U. S. Marine Corps, '73 - '76; Melinda G. Tell, J.D. University of Pittsburgh, '82; N.Y. State Prosecutor, '84 - '87.

**Phone: (443)535-0040**

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**email: [lawyers@jordantell.com](mailto:lawyers@jordantell.com)**

**Representative Clients:** Justdate.com, Inc.; Watkins Fuel Co.; The Moulton Co.; Nations Direct; Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corp.; Service Link; Brooks Benefits LLC; Knowledge Workforce, Inc.; Globalization Partners Inc.; The Dollar Shoppe

LLC; Alycor, Inc.; Ditali LLC; New Gideon, Inc.; Snassi Design; Patient Privacy Paging Systems Inc.; Pleasant Living Interiors; Biomed Services, Inc.; Lall Enterprises; Creative Video, Inc.; Benefit Outsource Group LLC; Maryland K.C. Incorporated; A.C. Collins, Inc.; Mega Auto Inc; Howard Pre-School, Inc.; Twelve Hills Communitiy Association; Sina Auto Sales; Simpsonville Media Conversion LLC; J S & G Electric Inc; Lincoln Service Mortgage; Walker-Coon Corporation.

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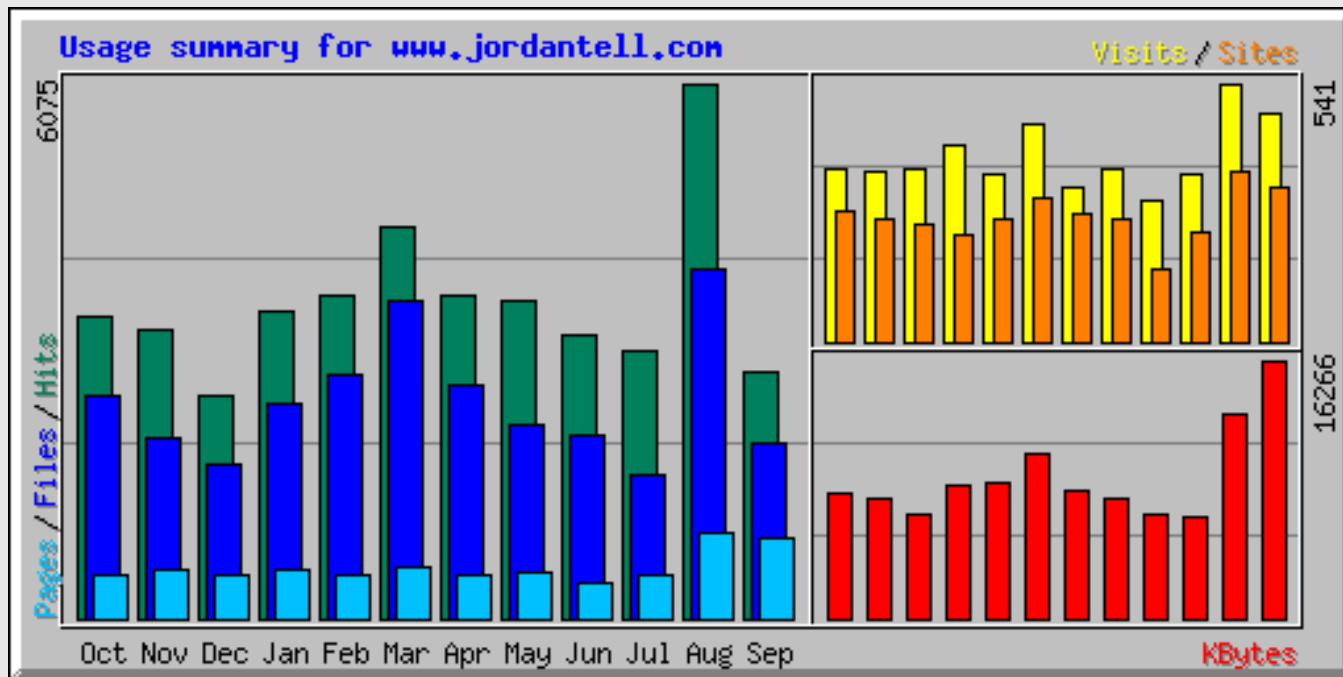


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Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
<a href="#">Sep 2004</a>	107	76	35	18	322	16266	475	918	1994	2791
<a href="#">Aug 2004</a>	195	128	31	17	358	12859	541	967	3979	6075
<a href="#">Jul 2004</a>	98	52	15	11	229	6368	351	495	1634	3039
<a href="#">Jun 2004</a>	107	68	13	9	151	6541	293	408	2069	3210
<a href="#">May 2004</a>	116	70	16	11	256	7620	359	523	2198	3597
<a href="#">Apr 2004</a>	121	88	16	10	265	7993	321	487	2649	3654
<a href="#">Mar 2004</a>	143	115	18	14	301	10350	454	585	3593	4437
<a href="#">Feb 2004</a>	125	95	17	12	254	8474	349	504	2757	3651
<a href="#">Jan 2004</a>	112	78	17	13	226	8370	414	553	2436	3476
<a href="#">Dec 2003</a>	82	56	15	11	244	6598	364	485	1748	2542
<a href="#">Nov 2003</a>	109	67	18	11	259	7511	358	548	2037	3275

<a href="#">Oct 2003</a>	111	81	15	11	272	7822	364	487	2527	3441
<b>Totals</b>						<b>106772</b>	<b>4643</b>	<b>6960</b>	<b>29621</b>	<b>43188</b>

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### Partner Profiles

- Marc L. Jordan
- Melinda G. Tell

### Practice Areas

- Bankruptcy
- Commercial Law
- Divorce
- Litigation
- Personal Injury
- Personal Law

- [Real Estate](#)

## **F.A.Q.'s**

- [Divorce FAQ's](#)
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## Partner Profiles

### MARC L. JORDAN

Mr. Jordan is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law, and also holds a Masters of Business Administration degree from New York University. Prior to attending law school, Mr. Jordan was an officer in the United States Marine Corps and held management positions with the Mountain View, California firm of Benson-Varian, Inc. Mr. Jordan's legal experience includes several years with the New York law firm of Paul Weiss Rifkin Wharton & Garrison. Mr. Jordan is member of the Howard County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Committee and Chairman of the sub-committee on Technology Legislation.

### Publications:

- "Trademarking Internet Domain Names", *Maryland Bar Bulletin*,  
October 2000.
- "Maryland Adopts Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act",  
*The Business Monthly*, June 2000.
- "Intellectual Property on the Internet, Problems and Solutions",

*National Business Institute*, February, 2001.

## **Reported Decisions:**

- Rosen v. Siegel, 106 F. 3d 28 (2d Cir. 1997).
- Rosen v. Morben Properties, Inc., 23 A.D.2d 584, 636 N. Y.S.2d 410 (2d & Dept. 1996).

Mr. Jordan is admitted to practice before state and federal courts in Maryland and New York, and is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association.

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## **MELINDA G. TELL**

Ms. Tell is a 1982 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh Law School and a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Chatham College. Ms. Tell acquired extensive experience in employee benefits matters as an Assistant General Counsel of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. Ms. Tell has represented the Resolution Trust Corporation and was a prosecuting attorney in Westchester County, New York, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She is a frequent lecturer on Estate Planning concepts and techniques.

## **Reported Decisions:**

In re Consolidated Litigation Concerning International Harvester's Disposition of Wisconsin Steel, 681 F. Supp. 512 (N.D. Ill. 1988).

Spring Branch Mining, Inc., et al. v. UMWA 1950 Pension Trust,

854 F.2d 37 (4th Cir. 1988).

People v. Morgan Goodman, 69 N.Y.2d 32, 503 N.E. 2d 996,



511 N.Y.S.2d 565 (1986).

People v. Robinson, 133 A.D.2d 473, 519 N.Y.S.2d 571 (1987).

People v. Miller, 124 A.D. 2d 830, 508 N.Y.S.2d 549 (1986),

cert. denied, 107 S.Ct. 2467 (1987).

Commonwealth v. Kysliger, 506 Pa. 132, 484 A.2d 389 (1984). Commonwealth v. Hamlin, 503 Pa. 210, 469 A.2d 137 (1983).

Ms. Tell is a member of the bars of Maryland and New York.

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## Practice Areas

- [Bankruptcy Law](#)
- [Commercial Law](#)
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## Bankruptcy Practice

We have over thirty years experience and offer specialized services in the area of bankruptcy law.

We provide **skilled representation** in all areas of **Bankruptcy Law** to help you achieve **relief from your personal debts or debts of your business.**

We can help you with:

- **Personal bankruptcies - chapters 13 and 7**
- **Small business liquidation - chapter 7**
- **Small business reorganization - chapter 11**

**Congress is currently considering changing the bankruptcy laws so that it will be much more difficult to get full relief from your debts.** Call or email us for a complimentary consultation and explanation of the proposed changes to the bankruptcy laws.

**We offer competitive fees that guarantee you the lowest possible cost, while providing the highest quality representation.**

Please click on the link to our FAQs page for answers to some Frequently Asked Questions. Then call for a complimentary

initial consultation.

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## Business and Commercial

Our Business and Commercial practice can assist your business with most legal problems. Perhaps more importantly, we work closely with our clients to keep legal problems from arising. Our principal practice areas are the following:

- **Business Formation.** We can help you select the appropriate form of business organization. Choosing the proper form requires consideration of tax and liability issues, as well as personal preferences and inter-relationships among principals. We will help you select and establish the form that is best for your individual situation, whether it be a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or other entity.
- **Internet and Computer Law.** Whether you are creating a new Internet based business or expanding your traditional business onto the Internet, we can help you navigate the laws, practices, and technical problems that arise in today's complex business environment, from negotiating a web site development agreement to domain name arbitration. New legislation, such as the Maryland Computer Information Transactions Act, makes it particularly important that licensors and licensees of computer information carefully review new and existing agreements.
- **Copyright.** The growth of the Internet has brought a new

importance to the protection and licensing of intellectual property. Virtually every creator of a web page implicates rights under the Copyright Act that he or she needs to protect. Web site owners need to be careful not to infringe intellectual property rights of others, whether by direct copying or indirectly by linking and framing. We can assist you in protecting your intellectual property on the Internet.

- **Trademark.** Trademark law has also assumed a new importance with the expansion of the Internet. Domain names must be selected carefully to ensure that no marks are infringed. Recent federal enactments, such as the Anticybersquatting Consumer Protection Act, impose severe penalties for infringement. We can assist you in registering your trademarks or service marks, protecting your marks (whether they are domain names or otherwise) and in seeing that others do not trade on your goodwill.
- **Homeowners' Associations.** We can assist you in creating an association, in ensuring that your association acts in compliance with its by-laws and the Maryland Homeowners Association Act, and in resolving disputes that arise between members.

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## Family and Domestic Relations Practice

### *Divorce Lawyers You Can Rely On*

Let us apply our **30 years of experience** to your divorce, separation, custody, pension/property division, or other domestic relations matter.

Among the areas where we offer representation are:

- Divorce and Separation
- Custody and Visitation
- Child Support
- Military Divorces
- Domestic Abuse
- Property Division
- Prenuptial and Postnuptial Agreements
- Adoptions and Guardianships
- Alimony
- Mediation

**We work hard to get the result you want without running up high fees.** Our satisfied clients tell us that our fees are much more reasonable than those charged by other lawyers.

**Unlike those law firms with offices in many states, we practice exclusively in the State of Maryland will give your case the personal attention you deserve.**



Please click on the link to our FAQs page for answers to some Frequently Asked Questions. Then call for a complimentary initial consultation.

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## Litigation

We provide aggressive, personalized representation in general civil litigation. We also litigate extensively in specialized areas such as trademark and copyright, civil fraud, and employment litigation.

We have over thirty years experience litigating civil matters in state and federal trial and appellate courts. Recent representations have included Internet copyright litigation in United States District Court in Maryland, employment litigation in Maryland Circuit Court, a civil fraud action in United States District Court in New York, Cybersquatting in the United States District Court in Maryland, ERISA litigation in various Federal District Courts, and Internet domain name arbitration pursuant to the ICANN Dispute Resolution Policy.

While we provide aggressive representation to pursue or protect your legal rights, we will work closely with you to ensure that the litigation is conducted within your financial parameters.

### Reported Decisions:

Rosen v. Siegel, 106 F. 3d 28 (2d Cir. 1997).

In re Consolidated Litigation Concerning International Harvester's

Disposition of Wisconsin Steel, 681 F. Supp. 512 (N. D. Ill. 1988).  
Spring Branch Mining, Inc., et al. v. UMWA 1950 Pension Trust,  
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Commonwealth v. Kyslinger, 506 Pa. 132, 484 A.2d 389 (1984).  
Commonwealth v. Hamlin, 503 Pa. 210, 469 A.2d 137 (1983).

We are admitted to practice in the following courts:

- District Court of Maryland
- Circuit Court of Maryland
- Court of Special Appeals of Maryland
- Court of Appeals of Maryland
- United States District Court for the District of Maryland
- United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland
- United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York
- United States Trademark Office

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## Personal Injury Practice

### *Lawyers You Can Rely On*

We provide **aggressive representation** in pursuit of your legal rights, and help you get **all the compensation you are entitled to under law**, whether you have been in an automobile accident, or have suffered injury as a result of a defective product, such as an airbag or asbestos, or drug such as baycol or rezulin.

Among the areas we can provide assistance are:

- Auto accidents
- Defective consumer products - Asbestos, Air bags
- Defective drugs - Baycol, Rezulin, Propulsid, Fen-Phen
- Medical malpractice
- Birth injuries
- Wrongful death
- Worker's compensation
- Premises Liability

**For most accident and personal injury cases we limit our fees to 25% of the amount recovered.** This means that you can take home thousands of dollars, in some cases, tens of thousands, more than you would if you select a lawyer or law firm that keeps a larger percentage of your damages.

**Our experienced attorneys** know how to **maximize your recovery** and help you determine whether the insurance company is offering you their highest settlement.

**Unlike those law firms with offices in many states, we practice exclusively in the State of Maryland will give your case the personal attention you deserve.**

Please click on the link to our FAQs Page to find answers to some Frequently Asked Questions, then call for a complimentary initial consultation.

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## Personal Law

Our Personal Law practice is dedicated to providing discreet and effective representation to meet your unique needs. Our lawyers are trained and experienced in the following areas:

- **Divorce and Separation.** Unfortunately, a large amount of the resources of our legal system are devoted to resolving problems connected with separation and divorce. We believe that no two situations are alike, and that an attorney has a professional responsibility to tailor his or her professional advice to the specific needs of each unique client. In many situations, amicable mediation may result in the best solution, while other times, taking a "hard line" will be the only way to get results. Whether it is negotiating a separation agreement, litigating a contested divorce, or resolving child custody and support disputes, we fit the strategy to the situation.
- **Estate Planning and Probate.** Our estate planning practice covers everything from drafting a simple will, to providing complex tax advice for the purpose of minimizing federal estate taxes, to avoiding probate through the use of Living Trusts. We can work with your financial planner to ensure that you have an integrated financial and estate plan specific to your individual needs.
- **Real Estate.** We represent individuals and businesses in purchasing or leasing residential or commercial real

estate, and in obtaining approvals under the zoning laws for matters such as variances and special exceptions.

- **Employee Benefits/IRA's.** Determining the entitlement to, and the tax treatment of, benefits under employee benefit plans involves the interpretation of complex rules, regulations and agreements. We can assist in resolving disputes between employers and employees involving entitlement to benefits. We also work with financial advisors to assist with developing an individual financial plan.
- **Elder Law.** We can assist you in creating a long term care plan for you or your loved ones, and help you integrate the long term care program with other aspects of the estate plan.

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## Real Estate Practice

We provide **informed representation** to meet your legal needs.

We offer specialized services in real estate related matters.  
Among the area's where we provide advice and representation are:

- Purchasing or selling a home
- Homeowner Associations
- Foreclosures
- Commercial leases
- Condominiums
- Zoning and Land Use
- Defective construction
- Custom homebuilding
- Landlord and Tenant

Please call for a complimentary initial consultation.

**Phone: (443)535-0040**

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## Frequently Asked Questions

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## Frequently Asked Questions about Bankruptcy

### Should I file for Bankruptcy?

If you find that you are not able to pay your bills as they become due, it's time to explore your legal and financial options. Filing for bankruptcy is usually the last resort when no other solution to your financial difficulties appears to exist. However, alternate solutions, such as working out special payment plans with your creditors that fit within your budget, may be available. Agencies such as the Consumer Credit Counseling Service can assist you in working out a plan with your creditors.

### What are the Different Kinds of Bankruptcy?

An individual filing for bankruptcy generally must decide whether to do so under Chapter 7, 11, or 13 depending upon the particular individual's circumstances and preferences involved. We can help you decide which type of filing is best for you.

Chapter 7 is sometimes known as a "straight bankruptcy" or liquidation, and results in a discharge of all eligible debts. Some debts cannot be discharged, such as certain student loans, child support, or court ordered fines and restitution. Once you file Chapter 7, an estate is created and a trustee is appointed to

administer and liquidate all assets of the debtor to pay off creditors. Each debtor is entitled to certain exemptions in order to retain certain assets that may not be taken by the trustee. Generally, each individual may exempt up to \$6,000 worth of property. Once a person is discharged under a Chapter 7, they cannot file a Chapter 7 bankruptcy again for six years.

Chapter 11 is a reorganization in which the business or individual debtor remains in possession of the assets and formulates a plan to pay creditors over a period of time. The debtor-in-possession may divide creditors into different classes, rearrange or sell certain assets, and have certain protection while formulating a plan. There is no limit on the amount of debt an individual or business may have under this chapter.

Chapter 13 is a repayment plan to creditors under the supervision of the Bankruptcy Court for debtors with regular income. The debtor must formulate a plan of repayment, which can last for three years or up to five years, with special permission from the court. The debtor submits a portion of his/her future earnings, which is paid to a trustee, for distribution to creditors pursuant to the plan. The plan must be confirmed by the court and entered in good faith. The debtor may designate certain classes of creditors. Frequently, this chapter is used to pay back arrearages to secured creditors, particularly mortgage holders on the debtor's personal residence.

If the debtor complies with all requirements of the plan and completes it on schedule, the balance of any unsecured debt owed will be discharged. If the total debt exceeds \$290,525 the debtor must select either a Chapter 7 or 11.

### **If I File for Bankruptcy, Will I Lose Everything I Own?**

No. Individual debtors may exempt up to \$6,000 of property,

while husband and wife debtors filing jointly may exempt up to \$12,000. Sometimes, additional exemptions available under state laws such as "tools of the trade" may be taken. All personal assets must be listed on schedules filed with the court including furniture, clothing, bank accounts, and any equity in homes and cars. We can explain how this works.

## **What Happens After I File for Bankruptcy?**

The Bankruptcy Court sends out a notice of your bankruptcy filing to all of the creditors you listed when you filed your petition. This notice advises the creditors that you have filed, under which chapter you have filed, and advises that an "automatic stay" is in effect, which prevents creditors from pursuing any further efforts to collect the debt unless they obtain permission from the court. For example, if your wages are being garnished, the garnishment must stop, and the court may require that some of the money collected is returned to you.

Within four to six weeks after you file, you will be required to attend a hearing called a meeting of creditors. A trustee appointed by the court will preside at the meeting. At the meeting certain questions will be asked concerning the schedules you filed and any particular assets that you own.

Creditors have a right to be present and ask questions concerning your debts and assets. In some circumstances, creditors may seek a court order preventing their particular debt from being discharged if they can prove, for example, that the debtor made false statements or misrepresentations to obtain credit or a loan.

In a Chapter 7 case, the meeting of creditors is; generally, the only hearing of a debtor will be required to attend. In a Chapter 11, or 13, a debtor will be required to attend a hearing to

consider the proposed plan. This confirmation hearing is presided over by a U.S. bankruptcy judge.

### **If I am Behind on Payments on My Home or Car, Will Filing for Bankruptcy Prevent Foreclosure or Repossession?**

In almost all instances, creditors who are owed money on a home or car are secured creditors and possess certain rights that unsecured creditors do not possess. For example, they have the right to foreclose on home or repossess a car if payments are not made in accordance with the contract. A debtor who is behind on these payments can file under Chapter 11, 12, or 13, and propose a plan to repay the arrearages. However, in all cases, the debtor must continue to make the current monthly payments.

### **How Does Filing for Bankruptcy Affect My Credit?**

If you file for bankruptcy, that information will generally show up on a credit report through the local credit bureau for up to 10 years. However, if you are in a situation that you need to file for bankruptcy, your credit rating is usually already damaged. Also, some creditors will extend credit to you if you can provide collateral and make your payments on time.

### **How Much Does it Cost to File for Bankruptcy?**

The filing costs are \$200 for a Chapter 7 Petition, \$185 for a Chapter 13 Petition, and \$830 for a Chapter 11 Petition. Attorneys' fees vary depending on which Chapter you file under.





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## Frequently Asked Questions about Divorce

*Sponsored by the Law Firm of Jordan & Tell, with offices in Columbia and Bethesda, Maryland. Toll Free 1-(877) 535-3578.*

### What are the Grounds for Divorce in Maryland?

There are two types of divorce in Maryland: A limited divorce specifies the rights and obligations of the parties, but does not provide for final division of property (including pension and retirement funds) and does not permit remarriage. An absolute divorce terminates the marriage and determines all rights and obligations of the parties, including final division of property. A limited divorce may be granted on the following grounds:

1. Cruelty of treatment of spouse or a minor child
2. Excessively vicious conduct
3. Desertion
4. Parties are voluntarily living separate and apart without cohabitation and there is no reasonable expectation of reconciliation

An absolute divorce may be granted on the following grounds:

1. Adultery
2. Separation of the parties under the following circumstances:

- a. Uninterrupted desertion for at least 12 months, which is deliberate and final and in which there is no reasonable expectation of reconciliation.
- b. Parties are voluntarily living separate and apart without cohabitation for 12 consecutive months and there is no reasonable expectation of reconciliation.
- c. Conviction of one of the parties for a felony or misdemeanor in any state or in any court of the United States, where the party has been sentenced to serve at least three years or an indeterminate sentence in a penal institution and 12 months of the sentence have been served.
- d. Parties have lived separate and apart without cohabitation and without interruption for two years.

### **What are Separation and Property Settlement Agreements?**

In many instances, the parties to a marriage voluntarily agree to live separate and apart until they can obtain a divorce. The individuals involved may agree about the division of their property and other questions pertaining to alimony, child support, custody and visitation. The parties enter such an agreement in writing which fixes the rights and responsibilities of the two parties between each other. It is a binding contract between the two parties, which can generally be enforced by appropriate court action. An exception to this exists in matters concerning child custody and child support; the court always retains jurisdiction over these issues.

### **When are Alimony and Child Support Available?**

Alimony is payment for support of a spouse. Under the law of Maryland, either party may claim alimony from the other. The fact that the party seeking alimony may be guilty of some ground for divorce does not prevent an award of alimony to that party. Courts are required to consider many factors in determining the award and amount of alimony. These include, in

part, the financial needs and resources of the parties, their income and assets, financial obligations, standard of living and the facts and circumstances leading to separation.

Courts have always given the highest priority to the needs of children in divorce proceedings. Each party has a responsibility for the support of a minor child or children. A formula called the child support guidelines is now used by the court to determine the amount of child support. Child support awards are primarily based on the gross incomes of the parties, but each case must be considered on its own facts and circumstances.

If the parties have reached an agreement on the alimony and child support and have placed that agreement in writing, their agreement will govern payment of alimony and child support unless that agreement was obtained by fraud or under duress.

### **How is Marital Property Divided?**

Marital property is defined as all property acquired by either or both parties during their marriage. It does not include property acquired prior to the marriage, property acquired by inheritance or gift from a third party or property excluded by valid agreement or traceable to any of these sources.

Whether or not alimony is awarded, a court may still make a monetary award based on the value of all marital property. In determining the award and amount, the court is required to consider many factors. It is important to bear in mind that the court does not have the power to change the title to property, except for pensions and retirement funds, but may adjust the rights of the parties by giving a monetary award.

### **How is Custody and Visitation Decided?**

Maryland courts award custody of the minor children to one or both parties according to what is in the best interest of the children. If the physical custody is awarded to one party, visitation rights will generally be granted to the other party. Decision making power regarding the child or legal custody, may be awarded to either party separately or to the parties jointly.

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## Frequently Asked Questions about Accidents and Personal Injuries

**Q : When do I have the right to recover damages as a result of an accident?**

**A :** To recover damages as a result of an accident you must have suffered an injury to your person or property as the result of someone else's fault. It is not always necessary to have a physical injury since damages may be recovered based on a variety of nonphysical losses and harms. In cases of assault, for example, you do not need to show that a person's action caused you actual physical harm but only that it caused an expectation that some harm would come to you.

**Q : How much should I expect to pay in legal fees?**

**A :** Personal injury lawyers generally charge their clients on a contingent fee basis. That means you pay your lawyer only if you win. Your lawyer is paid a percentage of the total amount recovered. You'll sign what is called a retainer agreement with the lawyer you choose to represent you, clarifying all fees and charges. Usually in all cases, whether you win or lose, you are likely to have to pay the expenses of investigating and litigating your will have to pay expenses such as court filing fees and payments to investigators, court reporters, and medical experts,

as well as the expenses of securing medical records and reports.

**Q : How are my damages determined?**

**A :** Damages can include compensation for such expenses as medical bills and lost wages, as well as compensation for future wage losses. It also can compensate you for future lost wages and medical expenses and for physical pain and suffering. In addition, you may receive damages for any physical disfigurement or disability that resulted from your injury. The money is intended to restore your loss, is not considered as income, and is not taxable as income by the federal government or the states. An award of damages does not necessarily translate into immediate payment. You may have to take further legal steps to actually collect the money. If a defendant against whom you have won a judgment does not pay it, collection proceedings can be initiated. If the defendant owns property, for example, you may be able to foreclose on it. Another option would be to garnish the defendant's wages.

**Q : How much time do I have to file my case?**

**A :** All lawsuits must be filed within time limits set by law, called "statutes of limitations". In some cases you may have as little as one year to file a lawsuit based upon a tort causing personal injury. Unfortunately, if you miss the statutory deadline for filing a case, your case is thrown out of court.

**Q : What if a person dies before bringing a personal injury lawsuit?**

**A :** If a person injured in an accident subsequently dies because of those injuries, that person's heirs may recover money through a lawsuit. Maryland law permits an action when someone

causes the wrongful death of another. If a person with a claim dies from unrelated causes, the claim survives in most cases and may be brought by the executor or personal representative of the deceased person's estate.

**Q: What are the grounds for a medical malpractice claim?**

**A:** A medical malpractice claim can be brought upon the failure of a medical professional to meet the standard of good medical practice in the area in which the medical professional practices. A medical professional may be a doctor, a nurse, a medical technician, or other health care provider. If the medical professional fails to meet the standard of good medical practice and harm results to a patient, the medical professional may be liable for any resulting damages. In the case of a doctor who is a medical specialist, the standard of care is determined by the standard of good medical practice in that specialty. In Maryland, most medical malpractice cases must first be presented to an arbitration panel before a court action can be filed.