

Everyday Threats Made By Overly-Emotional Soon-To-Be-Ex-Spouses

Divorce lawyers regularly hear it all. We hear tragic stories, engaging stories, and just about every other type of story, including a common list of intimidating remarks made to our clients intended to intimidate, frighten, or control them.

These timeless (and overused) threats are repeated daily in law offices everywhere. To the lawyers, these statements are meaningless. However, to the client hearing them for the first time, they are sometimes terribly upsetting. This short summary is intended to show those on the receiving end of such remarks that they are not alone – and have no reason to be alarmed.

These spousal remarks seem to boil down to one basic purpose: an attempt on the part of the speaker to control the other partner, and the direction and outcome of the divorce. Here is a sampling of some of the more common such utterances:

1. “I’ll quit my job and *then* what’ll you get?”
2. “You can leave, but the kids stay here.” Or, “I can fix it so you’ll never see the kids again.”
3. “I don’t mind paying child support, but I want proof that you are spending it all on the kids.”
4. “I’ll give the lawyers every last cent before I’ll agree to [whatever].”
5. “Your lawyer is an idiot; he’s just running up the bill.” Or, “It simply doesn’t make sense for us to be paying two lawyers.”
6. “You think overtime applies to how much I pay in child support? If you make a claim, I’ll simply quit working overtime.”
7. “The pension is all mine, *I* worked for it.”
8. “The judge can’t make me pay you that much. Business stinks and the company is talking about cut-backs. I’ll be lucky if I have a job next [week/month/year].”
9. “You mess with me, and I’m going for full custody.”
10. “I’ll call the police and tell them that you hit me – who are they going to believe?”
11. “I’ve put the money where it’s safe. You’ll never find a dime.”

Apparently, a San Diego divorce lawyer was the first to go online with his list of these common, and virtually-always empty, threats. A Chicago lawyer reported that soon-to-be exes there often said the very same things – mostly word-for-word. If any of them sound familiar, realize that someone is trying to manipulate you, for their advantage and your injury. Note any such comments, and tell your lawyer about them. But don’t be afraid – we’ve seen all of these, and others, many times before.

(For the original article written by J. Richard Kulerski and Kari L. Cornelison, who are partners in the Chicago area, Oak Brook, IL divorce law firm of Kulerski & Cornelison, please visit:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/j-richard-kulerski/nine-nasty-things-that-di_b_1132934.html)

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