

## TO HAVE AND TO HOLD .... ONTO YOUR ASSETS!

A recent article in the "Courier Mail" highlighted the high cost of weddings. However, with approximately one in three Australian marriages ending in divorce, perhaps it is time to also look at future costs of the relationship.

One way to avoid financial pitfalls later on is to enter into a pre nuptial agreement prior to the wedding.

As divorce has become more common, Brisbane Family Law Centre's Clarissa Rayward considers that perhaps it's time for couples to add a pre-nuptial agreement to the wedding "To Do" list along with such things as organizing the reception and honeymoon.

"It is a reality that in Australia today many couples aren't going to live happily ever after, and in fact many are embarking on their second or third marriage or de facto relationship. As such they already have a substantial pool of assets prior to entering the relationship and to protect their rights they would be wise to look at entering into a pre-nup agreement", Ms Rayward said.

"Certainly weddings are costly but when you consider the costs of divorces these days, any steps to protect a person's assets are well worth it. Just to file for divorce in the Court costs \$550 and property settlements can involve substantial sums of money".

These days you need to look no further than the celebrity pages to witness massive payouts – for example Mel Gibson's recent settlements - USD\$750,000 to his ex girlfriend and millions to his ex wife, Nicole Kidman's rumoured USD\$109 million and so on.



The image is a promotional banner for the Brisbane Family Law Centre. It features a white brick wall background on the left with the acronym 'BFLC' in large, orange, hand-painted letters. To the right of this, the words 'BRISBANE FAMILY LAW CENTRE' are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with 'FAMILY LAW' in red. Below the text is a black silhouette of a family (two adults and a child) under a house. To the right of the logo is a red brick wall with the phrase 'START YOUR NEW LIFE WITH US' written in yellow, hand-painted letters. Below this is the website address 'www.brisbanefamilylawcentre.com.au'. On the far right, contact information is listed in white text: '10 Albion Road, Albion Qld 4010', 'Ph: 07 3862 1955', 'Fx: 07 3862 1255', and 'info@bflc.com.au'. Below this is the name and title of the director: 'Director: Clarissa Rayward BA LLB' and 'ABN 17130966317'. At the bottom of the banner, a black bar contains the text 'a SPECIALIST FAMILY LAW FIRM focusing on collaborative law, mediation and out of Court dispute resolution' in white and red.

**BRISBANE  
FAMILY  
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In fact Donald Trump is one celebrity who certainly agrees. At the recent National Achievers Conference he advised a member of the audience: "Don't ever get married without a pre-nuptial agreement".

To assist couples about to enter a relationship, Brisbane Family Law Centre is holding a free information night on pre nuptial agreements on Tuesday, 8 November 2011 from 6pm to 7.30pm.

To register, or for more information, please contact BFLC on 3862 1955, by email to [natasha@bflc.com.au](mailto:natasha@bflc.com.au) or see our website at [www.brisbanefamilylawcentre.com.au](http://www.brisbanefamilylawcentre.com.au).

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