

BowTieLawyer

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The Top 5 Lies of Divorce Clients

There is an old lawyer joke... How do you tell when your client is lying to you? When their lips are moving. Lying to your lawyer is a real reasons. It is primarily bad because advice can change based on the facts of your circumstance and if we, as the lawyer, do not know the facts, we can be right. And the whole perjury thing is bad too. Without further ado, here are the top 5 lies that clients tell.



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5. Lies about Income.

Clients that make a lot of money often understate their income. Also, I have had clients say they make more than they do, I guess because it is a really bad idea to lie about income regardless of the reason. The other party has the right to get pay records directly from you. Lying about making more than you do can result in you paying more than you owe.

4. Lies about their role within the Home.

The husband comes in and says he does all of the cooking, cleaning, child rearing and otherwise paints himself as Martha Stewart, while the wife is Haagar the Horrible. Out pillaging, but not big on household chores. This matters because it affects the division of assets and has custody applications.

3. Lies about Other Marital Fault.

#3 is other marital fault because it is saving room for #1. But this means that the client tells you about how awful the other party was and only reacted and defended themselves. They "forgot" to mention the domestic violence conviction and the child abuse. Oops.

2. Lies about Value\$.

In a similar vein to lies about income, clients understate the value of investments, collectibles and businesses. This can be very significant. I once misled the Court about the value of his privately owned business resulted in the wife coming back after the fact and getting more value out with a business partner. Also, that 1953 Chevrolet Coupe is worth more than you are saying it is.

1. Lies about Adultery.

#1 for a reason. It's hard to admit when you are wrong. By the way, "I didn't have an affair, it was just a one-night stand," is still a lie. Lying about this can bumfozzle a legal strategy of trying to prevent the divorce. If the other party has grounds against you and you are caught. If you lie about it chances are you will eventually be caught.

These are just some of the lies told every day. It is important to tell your lawyer the truth, including the dirty details. It can make a difference.

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