



# Understanding Settlement Agreements

A settlement agreement is a written contract in which the parties resolve some or all of the issues in their case. Once the court approves it, it becomes part of the final order and can be enforced like any other court order.

## What an agreement can cover

- 1 Property.** How the parties will divide the home, vehicles, bank accounts, retirement accounts, and other assets.
- 2 Debts.** Who will be responsible for mortgages, credit cards, loans, and other obligations.
- 3 Alimony.** Whether either party will pay support to the other, and if so, how much and for how long.
- 4 Parenting Plan.** Custody, the parenting time schedule, holidays, and how decisions about the children will be made. This is a separate document, but it is incorporated into the Settlement Agreement.
- 5 Child Support.** The support amount, calculated using the Georgia child support worksheet, plus related costs such as health insurance. These are calculated in the Child Support Worksheet, memorialized in a Child Support Addendum, and all incorporated into the Settlement Agreement.

## How it becomes final

**Signatures.** Both parties sign the written agreement.

**Court Review.** The signed agreement is submitted to the judge for approval.

**Children's Terms.** Custody and support terms are approved only if the judge finds they serve the children's best interests.

**Final Order.** Once approved, the agreement is incorporated into the final order and becomes enforceable.

## What to keep in mind

Read every page carefully. Ask us your questions before you sign, not after.

Once signed, an agreement is generally binding and very difficult to undo.

Make sure you understand and can live with every term, including payment amounts and deadlines.

Settling lets the parties shape the outcome instead of leaving every decision to a judge.

This guide provides general information about settlement agreements in Georgia family law matters and is not legal advice about your specific case. Your attorney will explain how settlement agreements apply to your situation.

## YOUR ROLE

Review each draft carefully, send us your questions and requested changes in writing, provide accurate financial information, and sign only when you fully understand the terms.

## QUESTIONS?

As always, all questions and requests should be directed to the team via email to [team@pepitone.law](mailto:team@pepitone.law).