



Untying the Knot:

Top DC Family Law Attorney Warns Recession Adding to Divorce Woes

Alan Plevy of SmolenPlevy says couples can't afford to split

(Vienna, VA)--Breaking up is harder to do, thanks to the failing economy. Couples who were considering divorce are finding it's cheaper to stay together, even if they can't stand each other. But cheaper isn't better. [Alan Plevy](#) of [Smolen Plevy](#) in Vienna, Virginia was just named one of the region's best divorce attorneys by Washingtonian magazine. He says couples are wrestling with critical issues as they deal with divorce and the changing financial scene, and the answers aren't easy.

"In a lot of cases, it's the devil you know versus the devil you don't," says Plevy. "They say to themselves, 'we know this situation is bad, but how can we afford two households when, right now, we can't even afford one?'"

Plevy says many couples are no longer dividing up assets, they're dividing up debt. "They're upside down in their mortgages, so even if they can sell the house, they'll still lose money," warns Plevy. "Their credit cards are maxed, and they may be dealing with unemployment by one or both partners."

The issues compound. Many older couples who were considering divorce are now seeing their pensions or retirement accounts wiped out.

Plevy says the added tensions can lead to even more serious problems. "It's a Catch 22," says Plevy. "The financial tensions lead to more problems, yet couples can't afford to get out. It just goes round and round." But Plevy warns that staying in a bad marriage because of the economy can lead to abuse: whether it's physical, emotional and/or economic abuse. Plevy says economic abuse can be when one spouse cuts the other off financially, or decides this is the perfect time to run up a lot of debt.

Among his suggestions, Plevy recommends counseling. "The failing economy may finally force couples to work together to get help. If they find a way to cooperate, even if it's cooperating on their divorce, they can keep costs low and figure out ways to deal with the financial issues."

Alan Plevy of SmolenPlevy is available for media interviews on this and other Family Law issues. He can be reached by contacting Celina Fabrizio at Celina@onthemarcmedia.com or at (614) 204-5237.