

# INFORMATION SHEET FOR CLIENTS

## SUMMARY OF CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED IN

### DISTRIBUTING MARITAL ASSETS

*[Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 208, §34]*

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The following information is presented to assist you in understanding some of the issues considered by the Court regarding domestic relations cases in accordance with Massachusetts statutes, case law and Rules of Court. The list of criteria below is representative of those factors taken into account by the Probate and Family Courts of the Commonwealth in determining what is a fair and equitable distribution of the marital estate.

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| 1. Length of marriage.                                     | 11. Liabilities of the respective parties.  |
| 2. Conduct of the respective parties during the marriage.  | 12. Needs of the respective parties.  |
| 3. Ages of the respective parties.                         | 13. Current needs of the minor children of the marriage.  |
| 4. Health of the respective parties.                       | 14. Future needs of the minor children of the marriage.   |
| 5. Station of the respective parties.                      | 15. Opportunities available to the respective parties for future acquisition of capital.                                |
| 6. Occupations of the respective parties.                  | 16. Opportunities available to the respective parties for future acquisition of income.                                 |
| 7. Amount and sources of income of the respective parties. | 17. Contributions of the respective parties in the acquisition, preservation or appreciation in value of their estates. |
| 8. Vocational skills of the respective parties.            | 18. Contributions of Husband and Wife as homemaker.   |
| 9. Employability of the respective parties.                |   |
| 10. Estates of the respective parties.                     |   |