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How the Relationship Between Former Partners Affects Their Property Division

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Research Highlight



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This Research Highlight is based on findings from research about relationship property division in New Zealand,¹ led by researchers from the Faculty of Law, University of Otago, and generously funded by the Michael and Suzanne Borrin Foundation. This research was undertaken in two phases:

- Phase One involved a nationwide telephone survey ascertaining public attitudes and values about post-separation relationship property division. During 2018, 1,361 telephone interviews were undertaken with a representative sample of 1,011 people, with additional interviews with 150 Māori, 100 Pasifika and 100 Asian respondents.
- Phase Two examined how separated couples divided their property and resolved any disputes. During 2020, an anonymous nationwide online survey was completed by 378 people and 110 of these respondents also participated in a telephone interview about their experiences and perspectives. The majority of the 378 survey respondents were women (82%), were born in New Zealand (79%), and had a tertiary qualification (71%). Most identified as New Zealand European (89%) and/or Māori (7%).

For full details of the study methods, participants and findings, please refer to our research reports and summaries, referenced at the end of this Research Highlight.

Introduction

Relationship property division, like other post-separation decisions, usually requires former partners to communicate with each other, discuss issues and negotiate, either directly or through their lawyers. Our research found that the quality of the relationship between former partners played a significant role in the nature and duration of their relationship property division experience and was an influential factor in whether they were able to reach a fair and/or timely settlement.

This Research Highlight details how the nature of the relationship between former partners impacted on their property division experiences – both on the process of dividing their property, as well as on the outcome achieved. The participants' insights and advice about the importance of former partners, where possible, having a civil relationship and being reasonable and cooperative are also outlined.

¹ The research informed a review of the Property (Relationships) Act 1976; see Te Aka Matua o te Ture | Law Commission *Review of the Property (Relationships) Act 1976 – Te Arotake i te Property (Relationships) Act 1976* (NZLC Report | Pūrongo 143, 2019).

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Impact of the Relationship on the Property Division Process

Having an amicable separation and/or a cooperative, respectful post-separation relationship were key factors in helping people divide their property. Those participants who had an amicable separation reported a relatively straightforward property division experience. As one participant put it: *"It doesn't have to be horrible."*

It wasn't hard when you are talking to each other. I could imagine it would be totally different if we didn't have that level of communication. ... I don't think it would have been easy if there had been any aggravation on either side. We were both happy about having to separate. ... Even though we knew we couldn't live together, we had respect for each other.

There was no animosity. ... We were separating because the love left the relationship a long time ago. We could still talk without shouting 99% of the time with disagreement. So, there was goodwill on both sides. ... I don't think it occurred to either of us that the other party would be creating issues. It would have been a big surprise if that had come up.

Obviously, it was quite difficult when we split and didn't talk for a while, but we were quite amicable after that. ... I'm happy with how we worked things out. I'm happy that we kept things pretty amicable. We still talk to each other fairly regularly.

Many participants said it was particularly helpful that they had an amicable and cooperative post-separation relationship with their former partner with good communication, and a mutual willingness to be fair, reasonable and respectful and to keep their children's interests in mind. Having a common goal, a desire to make the process of dividing their property as timely and as straightforward as possible, and a commitment to be civil, enabled people to divide their property relatively easily. While it is not always possible to communicate directly with a former partner to resolve property division, particularly when the relationship is very poor or there has been family violence, those able to do so found this helpful. Overall, nearly a third of the participants found talking with their former partner the most helpful thing they did.

'Peaceful' communication with my spouse based on the information gained through legal advice. We had a common goal and this assisted in reducing friction. It allowed us to reach 'middle ground' in a short time.

We just wanted it done fast and fair. We didn't dislike each other. We both just wanted to get moving in our new lives.

Communication was key. Keeping it objective and not subjective and ensuring it never got unpleasant. Being patient.

My ex and I agreed in principle about our approach and did not sweat the small stuff.

Witnessing the angst and bitterness of other people's property division experience was a strong incentive to not go down the same path.

Seeing what other people have gone through, and what I've been through, I think probably the thing that helped me the most is the fact that me and my ex were able to talk things through and stay fairly friendly throughout it. That reduced a huge amount of the stress for that. Yeah, I think that was really important.

We were married for over 40 years and in our 60s found ourselves different people than we were at 20. So it was an agreed separation. Over the years we have watched other relationships fail, and have been horrified at the hate, bitterness and downright ugliness of those failing relationships. We were both determined that the end of our marriage would not result in that sort of nastiness. I think that determination, as well as a strong friendship, meant we have passed very satisfactorily through the end of our marriage and a peaceful negotiation of our asset split.

An amicable separation and cooperative post-separation relationship between former partners is not, however, always possible. Some participants noted how the very nature of separation means people can find it difficult to communicate and be reasonable towards each other.

It was difficult trying to get into a situation where we both weren't going to lose out financially. Things had broken down so well it got to the point where we couldn't even mediate or talk to each other. He dug his heels in and I think he was so resentful towards me that he just wouldn't budge on anything.

When we were starting to do the division of the things, there were some testy times and I felt incredibly tense and reluctant to ... even communicate. I just felt really shell-shocked I suppose, still. But, over time, that eased up.

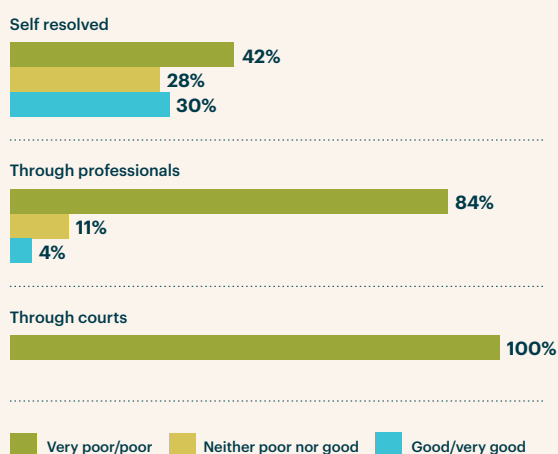
Look, you rely on people's good intentions and the promises they make and the words they say. But, when you actually do separate, and you realise that there are two sides, and you're each on either one of them, people aren't so helpful to each other anymore because they're trying to protect themselves and also maximise what they've got. I think that people don't realise how much they lose, especially, financially, until it starts happening.

If you've reached that point in your relationship where you no longer wish to live with somebody, it seems unreasonable to suppose you could now be rational about how you're going to divide your property and then deal with your issues. So, fundamentally, the reasons that you're separating is because you can't.

In our research, nearly two-thirds (65%) of the participants rated their relationship with their former partner as poor or very poor during the property division process and 60% reported violence in their relationship, either during or after the separation (see also Research Highlight 4).

The quality of the relationship could influence the dispute resolution process utilised to settle the property division (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Relationship quality by dispute resolution pathway



Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

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Of those participants who resolved their property dispute with their former partner largely by themselves, 42% rated their relationship as poor or very poor, compared with 84% of those who resolved the property division through professionals, and 100% of those who used the courts.

This is important as we found that those participants who reached agreement with their former partner mostly by themselves, perhaps with some legal advice, were generally more positive about the dispute resolution process, than those who had resolved the matter through professionals or the courts. Participants who used the courts to divide their property were the least positive regarding whether they found the process worked well for them; took a reasonable amount of time; allowed them to put their position forward; and was fair and satisfactory (see Research Highlight 2).

Despite participants recognising the importance of a civil relationship, this was not sometimes possible due to the attitude or actions of their former partner. As one participant commented: *"I think it really depends on the person that you are trying to do it with."*

Nearly three-quarters (72%) of the participants found dealing with their former partner and/or their behaviour or attitude challenging and nearly two-thirds (64%) did not trust them. The most commonly reported behaviours that made the property division process difficult for participants included their former partner's lack of engagement, refusal to negotiate, animosity, hostility, dishonesty, deception, abuse and violence.

It was difficult for negotiations to occur when one party was unwilling to engage in the property division process. Participants described the stress and frustration they experienced when their former partner delayed and stonewalled the process by being non-communicative, uncooperative, and not responding to, or ignoring, communications from them or their lawyers. In some cases, participants' former partners left the country or 'disappeared' and could not be found, making it difficult for legal documents and house sale agreements to be signed. Some participants reported that their former partner refused to negotiate or compromise, or had unrealistic positions. Others had former partners who changed their expectations or claims, or reneged on agreements.

In some cases, the lack of engagement by a former partner was due to mental health or addiction issues. However, many participants believed that their former partner's behaviour or attitude sometimes stemmed from their intractable personality and/or the poor post-separation relationship between them. Anger and resentment could lead to one party being deliberately belligerent out of spite or vindictiveness.

Just an unwillingness to engage was the main issue for me. Just like hitting your head against the wall really. I don't know how you deal with that when somebody's personality is just such that they can't accept that they don't have control over you anymore.

He just wouldn't participate, wouldn't communicate, just wanted to ignore it. I think part of that is 'can't be bothered' and also part of that is enjoying the control and the impact of that, driving me up the wall kind of thing. ... The expectations from the other party were always changing. ... The emotional game-playing. If I didn't do something it would have just kept going probably forever.

He was unwilling to communicate with me. ... There was delay of about a year because he was reluctant and pushing back. He was angry. Angry that I'd broken up with him and then he was angry that I could buy him out of the house. He wanted more money. ... I wondered if he was doing a lot to spite me. ... The only difficult part was when you think it's going to be straightforward and somebody starts changing the goalposts. That's what it felt like. He didn't get rid of the goalposts. He would just shift them in terms of what he expected and what he wanted out of this.

He's been so intractable and difficult to deal with through this whole process. ... He's as stubborn as a mule.

Such obstructive behaviours could lengthen the property division process. This meant that some participants felt like their lives were on hold and prevented them from being able to move on. Sometimes, those who had been hopeful of sorting out their property division in a simple manner had had to involve lawyers, threaten legal action, or take the matter to the Family Court in order to prompt some action. Others wanting to avoid the court were frustrated by the inability to compel a former partner to engage in the process. The protracted nature of such disputes could increase both the time to reach a settlement and the cost of any legal fees.

It was really difficult communicating with him. ... He just wasn't very interested and wasn't very engaged. ... I was starting to think, well, what do you do if someone's just ignoring your emails and not giving you the information that you need to settle the division? What is the next step? I mean, that's when you start getting lawyers involved. ... It takes two people to come to an agreement.

My ex refused to discuss the matter and it took over four years before the matter was even discussed.

I basically had a partner who didn't want to cooperate in the process. ... I couldn't get the mortgage transferred into my name without his consent. ... There was no progress. I had no way of making him do something he didn't want to. ... I was trying to avoid court as well, just because I thought it was a waste of time and we didn't really have the assets to justify it and it's an expensive process as well. So, I waited it out as well. But every time I moved forward on something, he'd either just disappear or not reply.

He was trying to delay things and hide things. ... The thing that really, really got me was there was no comeback. If he sat back and did nothing, I had no comeback. My first lawyer just said, 'It will take you a year to go through court, it's not worth the money and it will cost you a fortune – don't do it'. ... So, you're basically at the whim of the other party and if they don't want to come then you are just absolutely stuck.

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A former partner's deceptive, dishonest or fraudulent behaviour was also problematic for some participants. Over a quarter (28%) reported their former partner's non-disclosure of assets, debts or financial information as challenging, and false valuations and fraud were also alleged. Some participants said their former partner spread rumours about them or made false allegations against them, which made the property division process difficult.

Abusive, manipulative, controlling and threatening behaviour by a former partner was also very challenging for some participants, and could affect the property division process. Being fearful of their former partner had made it difficult for some participants to negotiate with them and advocate for themselves. Family violence appeared to be associated with longer times to reach a property division settlement.

I was scared of him. I just wanted it to be over. I just needed him to be gone, and he wouldn't let that happen. ... I was trying to be as reasonable as possible. I suspect this might happen to other women where you just go, 'Take what you want, and go.' Because it just is a shadow over the rest of your life. I just want to move on, you know? ... But that process was the one way that he could keep in contact and be unreasonable.

Refusal of ex-partner to accept the relationship had ended, and being belligerent, non-compliant and abusive.

When you've got a man who has got a Protection Order against him, he's feeling very vengeful. He's going to try and hurt you in any way that he can. In this case, it was financially.

Unsurprisingly, when participants were asked what would have made the process of dividing their property easier, many of their responses related to a change in their former partner's behaviour or attitude – such as them being more reasonable, fair, cooperative, honest, trustworthy, timely and less difficult or abusive.

My former partner being reasonable, instead of petty or nasty, would have been very helpful.

If my former partner was less emotional and passive aggressive.

To have an honest, ethical partner.

A greater willingness to be fair and reasonable, primarily on my ex-wife's part, but also probably on my part.

Impact of the Relationship on the Property Division Outcome

The relationship between former partners did not just influence the property division process, but also its outcome – i.e., whether the division was considered fair and equitable. This was evident in participants' reasons for any departure from equal sharing and the way they divided their household items with their former partner.

The underpinning principle of the PRA is that relationship property should be divided equally.² While 37% of the participants reported that their property division was fully consistent with the equal sharing law, for almost two-thirds (63%) it was only partially (33%) or not at all consistent (30%) (see also Research Highlight 2). Reasons for a departure from equal sharing could be related to the nature of the relationship between the parties. Sometimes a person decided not to pursue a 50/50 split, even when entitled to it, in order to help their former partner and/or their children. Others made a needs-based decision, such as splitting household items, such as furniture and appliances, on the basis of who needed, or did not need, particular items, or who the children lived with. These examples highlight how, when the relationship was reasonable and cooperative, one party or both showed goodwill, flexibility and considered the needs of the other when dividing their property.

I wanted to leave all property with kids' mum so the house was as normal as possible during our separation.

I kept more of the household items, but my ex-partner was okay with this as he was not intending to buy a house and didn't need them.

Conversely, a poor, conflictual or abusive relationship with a former partner could also result in a departure from equal sharing that was sometimes perceived as unfair or inequitable. Some participants made sacrifices out of fear, as a way of trying to reduce or stop the conflict, or to make a clean break and distance themselves from their former partner's difficult or abusive behaviour. While this could minimise or eliminate contact, and therefore the perpetration of further abuse and control by a former partner, it could come at the cost of receiving a less than equal share of the property.

I was too scared to push for what I was entitled to as ex-husband would flare up.

My desire to make a clean break, as I could not put up with psychological and emotional abuse anymore, meant I accepted less than what I think was fair.

I didn't want to spend months/years negotiating and dealing with former partner's behaviour for the sake of money.

I couldn't deal with having contact, so just agreed with what he wanted.

Other participants had little or no choice about their property division settlement. They reported being threatened, coerced, bullied, manipulated or pressured by their former partner into accepting an unequal division. Sometimes, a former partner had unilaterally decided on the property division outcome or had simply taken the property they wanted and the participants had been unable to (re)claim their share.

My ex would tell me that if I didn't accept his offers, each time I said no, he would take more money off me, and he actually did that. Very bullying, threatening.

I was coerced out of taking any significant property items with me.

² PRA 1976, s 11(1): On the division of relationship property under this Act, each of the spouses or partners is entitled to share equally in (a) the family home; and (b) the family chattels; and (c) any other relationship property.

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I'm still terrified of my ex, which he knows, so he was able to bully and scare me into not fighting anything.

He made the choices, and I had to accept them basically. ... Due to a lack of financing, I couldn't defend myself properly.

He took what he wanted at the beginning of separation (the expensive digital things) without agreement and broke into my space to do this when he knew I was away.

I was unable to access my items as he immediately locked me out of everything.

[When I] went away for a weekend with the kids ... my ex-husband pretty much emptied the house. ... He'd already emptied bank accounts prior to separation.

The impact of a couple's post-separation relationship on the property division outcome also played out in the way they divided their household goods and chattels and what was deemed to be separate property. When there was a relatively amicable relationship characterised by a sense of goodwill and reasonableness between the former partners, flexibility and generosity was often apparent in:

- The division of personal or hobby-related items being treated as the separate property of the person who used them, rather than subject to a 50/50 split.
- A willingness to allow property to be exchanged after the settlement. Some participants stored or held property belonging to their former partner so they could retrieve it later; allowed their former partner to reclaim items that had been left behind; or offered their former partner property they themselves had originally kept, but now no longer needed or wanted.

One of us doesn't sew and the other does not play with gardening equipment! The reason I say this is there was a huge discrepancy in the values of our individual hobbies – against me. However, it was, in my mind totally unreasonable for either of us to liquidate our hobby equipment. After all, we had had more than 40 years married, and we did both respect each other enough to accept this situation, hence a disparity in the division of chattels.

It's amicable enough that if I turned around and said, 'Hey, I'd like something else out of the house', for instance, it's not going to be like the door is locked forever and I can never get back in there and ask for something that I forgot to take.

The other month I took around a couple of pictures that we had from our lounge that I originally was going to put up in this dwelling that I'm renting. I finally realised that, well, look, I'm not going to. I've decided I don't want them now, anyway. So, I took them round to [former partner] because I know she liked them as well and said, 'Here, you can use these now. I'm not going to.' In terms of little things, it's gone backwards and forwards a little bit like that since.

Obviously the whole thing changed the nature of our relationship, but we can still exchange texts. ... When I moved out, I took half of our dinner set which we had bought some years ago and I left him some. [Later] I was like, 'Do you want my half because I'm not really using it?' and he was like, 'Yep, sure.' So, he came around and picked it up and that was fine.

A bookcase that's half full of his books that he just leaves here until he is ready for them. ... There's a couple of paintings and there's a few bits and pieces in this house that I think of as his and he knows that. ... So, we've never done the pots are mine and the knives and forks are yours.

In contrast, those participants who had a difficult, conflictual or abusive relationship with their former partner sometimes described a more rigid (and sometimes very literal) adherence to a 50/50 split of household items, with no opportunity to claim, or ask for, items after the settlement.

He said, 'I want half the dishware.' I said, 'They're second-hand plates that I got from an op shop for \$1 and you want half of them?' He said, 'Well, yeah, they belong to both of us, right?' That's how petty it was.

I knew it was like 50/50, but I didn't realise that that included literally everything in the house and I didn't realise when I signed the contract that, when I signed it, everything that was still in the house at that time basically became his. So, there were little things that I hadn't thought about that then became really hard for me to access. Little things like my power tools or things like that, that suddenly became super-contentious.

In some cases, participants thought that their former partner's unreasonableness or inflexibility stemmed from animosity, anger or hurt and the property division was therefore being used to punish them.

I wasn't being a dick, I just wanted my half of our house and stuff. ... I wanted just what was fair and she wanted everything down to the last teaspoon. She's still withholding property from me and trying to blackmail me and I can't do anything about it. When we were trying to distribute small bits and pieces from the household, she literally wanted everything. She didn't want me to have anything – down to the last teaspoon. She didn't want me to have even my stuff. ... She even took my tools of trade. ... It was all about withholding as much stuff from me as possible to make my life extremely difficult.

I held a lot of guilt for being the one that was leaving, so was kind of inclined to just be like, 'Just take whatever you want, I don't care.' ... He wanted to keep the stuff because he told me that he didn't think I was entitled to half of it. ... He was like, 'No, you've left. You've left everything. You don't get any of it.' I was like, 'No, that's not how it works. If you want it, that's fine, but you need to acknowledge that I'm entitled to half of it and you have to buy half of it off me kind of thing.' ... I'd definitely hurt him and so he was a lot quicker to operate without any goodwill I think.

Advice from Participants about the Importance of the Relationship

A key finding from our research was that when *both* parties behaved respectfully and cooperatively towards their former partner, the property division could be a more straightforward and less difficult process. This theme also emerged strongly from the advice participants would give others going through a property division. They advised separated couples to be fair, honest, reasonable and civil with each other and to try and see things from the other person's perspective. They suggested focusing on the future, keeping children's wellbeing at the forefront, and trying to keep negative emotions and conflict out of the negotiations.

Don't play dirty, just be truthful and be honest and don't be greedy. Aside from parenting, it's the last thing you're going to have to do with this person. Just go in, get it sorted, be strong.

If you can avoid using money as a weapon, a way to hurt, a way to control, then you will always get a better outcome.

Recognise that you're both hurting, and you've both got different ways of being when you're hurting.

I think probably the first thing I would say is, if the relationship is broken and it really can't be recovered, then move on, and move on as quickly as you can. But also as quietly as you can. You've got to protect your children, protect your dignity and protect yourself. It isn't good for your health if you're having screaming hissy fits and having tantrums and smashing stuff. You need to be accepting that it's over and then, okay, look at the future and try and get to your next stage as swiftly and as painlessly as possible and when you're resolving things, seek to resolve it. Don't go into it looking for combat. The best thing you can do is have 'no blood on the floor'.

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Trying to work things out amicably was considered preferable in the long-term, especially when those who were parents still had to have ongoing contact with each other about their children. The involvement of lawyers could also be minimised, thereby making the property division process less costly. Participants advised others to work on their communication and to seek counselling to deal with any emotional issues that could detrimentally impact on their ability to communicate and work with their former partner to resolve the property division.

From a financial point of view, keep the big picture in mind. You will be far better off if you can have some kind of amicable relationship with your ex in the future if you've got kids together. Financially you will be far better off if you can look after any ounce of trust or generosity that you had toward each other now. Don't underestimate the future financial value of that.

If you could, try and keep it more civil, if that's possible. That will make it easier in the long-term if you don't have to go through expensive court and legal processes, lawyer fees. If you can avoid that, fantastic.

Try and keep communicating with your partner. Yeah, try and sort things out amicably. ... If you can work out a solution between the two of you, it's cheaper. As the lawyer said, 'If you can work out as much as you can between you, it keeps my fees down. As soon as the courts get involved, the only people that benefit are the lawyers' – and that was from the lawyer! Which is dead right. ... If you can deal with the communication, try and keep that going. Try and work out a resolution. We both knew it had finished, so, yeah, get on with life.

However, some cautioned that this was not possible in cases of family violence.

I'd say to someone who's going through it, don't put up with any violence. Violence is verbal abuse. If you're getting abused, you need to shut it down. It doesn't serve anyone. That would be my big thing, is zero tolerance for violence. ... If the other person is open to it, I think therapy and counselling is a good idea but, if they're not and there's not the amicability there, don't do it because it's damaging. I think if there's violence, shutting down communication is actually a necessity because otherwise it just kind of draws it out.

I think that while amicable settlement is preferable, it's not likely to be possible where there is domestic abuse, and that needs to be more widely understood.

Some participants also noted the delicate balance that needed to be struck between wanting to keep things amicable with their former partner, while not pushing too hard for what they wanted or thought was fair, at the cost of damaging their relationship or ending up in a less favourable position in the property division.

It's often easier to look at what is equitable and feels fair, rather than what the law says. Because as soon as everybody seems to back into that corner of 'I'm entitled to ...' and you push somebody's 'That doesn't feel fair button', then the fight seems to get a bit more heated and combative. ... As soon as you push that button, it seems harder to come back from.

At the time you don't want to push things too hard because you don't want to upset him. When things are ticking along relatively well and you are being nice to each other you don't want to push a point and have that switch flip.

I have thought a couple of times, maybe I was a bit too fair. Maybe I should have pushed my barrow a bit harder, given that he was quite agreeable. But, you never know how far you can push people before they lash out. So, I think, probably, maybe, I could have pushed for a bit more from the settlement, but also, maybe, I might have just pushed a wrong button and ended up in a worse situation.

Summary

The post-separation relationship between former partners played an important role in both the nature of the property division experience and its outcome. A cooperative, amicable and respectful post-separation relationship could help people achieve a more straightforward and less fraught property division process and a fair outcome. However, when the relationship was poor, conflictual or abusive, the property division process was often more challenging. Achieving a fair and equitable property division outcome could also be more difficult in the context of family violence.

While some couples separate with little or no discord, it is not unusual for difficulties to exist in the post-separation relationship. Also, despite people's best efforts to divide property amicably, sometimes emotions are just too raw or people may be uncooperative, intractable or obstructive. In cases involving high conflict or family violence, attempting to negotiate directly with a former partner may not be safe or desirable. Legal advice and professional assistance and support may be required in such situations.

However, where possible, it is preferable if *both* parties negotiate the property division in a civil and respectful manner and make efforts to be reasonable, fair and cooperative with each other.

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Relationship Property Division in NZ Research Highlight Series

There are six Research Highlights in this series.
Each provides helpful information and advice about:

1. Knowledge and Understanding of Relationship Property Division
2. Relationship Property Division: Insights From Those Who've 'Been There, Done That'
3. How the Relationship Between Former Partners Affects Their Property Division
4. The Challenges and Impact of Relationship Property Division
5. Prenuptial/Contracting Out Agreements
6. Dividing Relationship Property: A Guide about Issues to Consider

Research Reports and Summaries

Phase One

Ian Binnie, Nicola Taylor, Megan Gollop, Mark Henaghan, Shirley Simmonds and Jeremy Robertson, *Relationship Property Division in New Zealand: Public Attitudes and Values. A General Population Survey* (Technical Research Report, Michael and Suzanne Borrin Foundation, Wellington, New Zealand, 2018).

Ian Binnie, Nicola Taylor, Megan Gollop, Mark Henaghan, Shirley Simmonds and Jeremy Robertson, *Relationship Property Division in New Zealand: Public Attitudes and Values. A General Population Survey* (Research Summary, Michael and Suzanne Borrin Foundation, Wellington, New Zealand, 2018).

<https://www.borrinfoundation.nz/report-relationship-property-division-in-new-zealand-public-attitudes-and-values>

Phase Two

Megan Gollop, Nicola Taylor, Ian Binnie, Mark Henaghan and Jeremy Robertson, *Relationship Property Division in New Zealand: The Experiences of Separated People* (Descriptive Research Report, Children's Issues Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, 2021).

Megan Gollop and Nicola Taylor, *Relationship Property Division in New Zealand: The Experiences of Separated People* (Research Summary, Children's Issues Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, 2022).

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/cic/research/index.html#relationship-property>

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