



THE LAW OFFICE OF
ROBERT P. NEWMAN, P.C.

† ADMITTED TO PRACTICE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND MARYLAND

801 WAYNE AVENUE, SUITE 400
SILVER SPRING, MD 20910
TELEPHONE: 301.892.2713 FAX: 301.883.1533
RNEWMAN@RPNEWMANLAW.COM

[Date]

[Client Name]
 [Address]
 [City, State Zip]

RE: Potential Conflict of Interest Disclosure and Consent for Estate Planning

Dear [Salutation]:

It is customary for spouses to employ the same attorney or law firm to help them plan their estates. It is important you to understand that because I am representing both of you, you are both my client. Joint representation has certain advantages, including lower cost and ease of acquiring service through one provider.

There are also potential disadvantages of joint representation. (1) If each of you hired separate counsel, you each would have a right to keep your communications secret from one another. Each lawyer would have undivided loyalty to each of you individually and may better represent your individual interests and wishes. (2) Our joint representation of you means that each of you has the right to learn the substance of the communications that either of you tells us individually. If either of you asks us to keep anything secret from the other, we would likely be obligated to terminate our representation of both of you. (3) If either of you disagrees as to the other's decisions about the disposition of community property or other aspects of your estate plan, you must resolve these differences between you or seek mediation by a third party, otherwise we may be obligated to withdraw from representation of both of you. (4) We cannot urge a course of action that will benefit one of you to the detriment of the other or take a position favoring one of you against the other. If ever placed in this position, we may have to withdraw from any further representation of both of you. (5) Your estate plan, including the characterization of community and separate property, could impact either or both of you in the event of divorce or the other's death and you may wish to seek separate legal counsel.

Please return to me a signed a copy of this letter, acknowledging you have read and understand it, and you wish me to proceed with your representation.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Newman
 Attorney & Counsel at Law

We have read this letter and understand it contents. We consent to having you represent both of us on the terms and conditions stated herein. We understand the explanation of conflicts. We also understand and agree, as between the two of us, with respect to information either of us provides you, no communications are confidential.

 Date

 [Husband's Full Name] - Signature

 Date

 [Wife's Full Name] - Signature