

Family Law

CALL US - BEFORE YOUR EX DOES!

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My friend represented himself in family court, and he lost his case - his ex got a summary judgment against him. I was planning to represent myself, but now I am having 2nd thoughts. What is a summary judgment and why is it a bad thing?

In 2015, over 57% of Ontarians did not have legal representation in Family Court. The Family Court process can be tricky to navigate without a lawyer, and yes if you go it alone, you can have all of your time and effort- those sleepless nights filling out court documents, all of the missed days of work- be worth nothing, if your ex is successful in a motion to strike or summary judgment against you.

A summary judgment against you can permit the other side to dismiss some or all of your claims without you having the opportunity to go to trial for a full hearing of these issues. A motion to strike your pleadings can effectively silence you from

participating in your own family litigation. Obviously, neither outcome is a good one for you.

In the last 10 years, summary judgments against self represented litigants have increased 800%.

Some Ontarians choose to self represent because they assume that this will save them money in legal costs; However, when assets worth many thousands of dollars are at stake, not to mention spousal support and other issues, a self represented litigant can discover that they are spinning their wheels and ending up with a deal which is far more costly to them over the long run than the cost of a family lawyer.

Your friends at Shank Law.



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