

### Problem 1:

Cindy and Bob met in high school. They started living together in the home of Cindy's parents. During that time, two children were born to the couple. Four years later, the couple were married in Las Vegas. Two years after their marriage, Bob filed for divorce. Bob sought joint legal custody with physical custody in Cindy. Bob also stated there was no community property nor debts between the couple. Cindy did not file an answer to the petition for divorce.

The judge set the matter for a final hearing. During that hearing, the judge conducted a peacemaking-like hearing resulting in certain agreements between the parties. Cindy and Bob agreed to the Las Vegas wedding date, joint legal custody with physical custody in Cindy, and a date of separation. At Bob's objection, the judge also entertained Cindy's request for alimony. At a supplemental hearing, the judge suggested the marriage be validated to the date of the couple's first child.

In the final order that followed, the judge validated a common law marriage to the date of the couple's first child, awarded Cindy sole legal and physical custody, awarded Cindy child support and arrearages to the agreed date of separation, and further awarded Cindy alimony. Bob appealed the judgment.

Did this meet peacemaking requirements?

### Problem 2

Doug and Pam filed for divorce. They have two young children. Pam's mom and dad have looked after the children for years while both Doug and Pam worked. On weekends Doug helps his parents with livestock and the children enjoy their time spent with his parents learning the Navajo language and tending to the animals. Doug and Pam have reached a Marital Settlement Agreement on all, except child custody and support. Both want full custody and child support is hotly debated. It is apparent the couple are traditional Navajos and, for the most part, respectful to one another. A final hearing has not been scheduled.

As the attorney for one of the parties with full knowledge of this information, what options would you recommend toward final disposition and why?