

## Know Your Rights

### PART II OF A SERIES

If my husband and I agree to a separation, and I want to get our affairs cleared up in the simplest way, what kind of agreement should we use?

The simplest form of separation papers is a contract called "separation agreement and property settlement." Any lawyer who does family work can prepare this sort of contract for a couple, if either the husband or the wife or both goes to him.

What can a "separation agreement" do for us?

Usually four things can be settled in this type of agreement:

1. During marriage the wife or husband has an ownership interest in any property the other buys or acquires. The agreement will end this arrangement and allow each person to buy and sell and acquire property of any kind on his or her own without the other being able to claim any interest in what is acquired.

2. During marriage the husband and wife are expected to refrain from dating or going with persons of the opposite sex. The agreement may end this requirement.

3. The agreement can divide up all the property owned by the couple before they separated, and decide who pays the bills and debts of the marriage. For instance, the contract may say that the wife gets to keep the furniture, and the husband keeps the car and pays all the outstanding bills. Even a lot of property can be divided up in this manner.

4. The agreement may state who has custody of the children, and exact amount of child support that will be paid by the one who does not keep them.

Do I have to go to court to get this done?

No. It is a private agreement. Both the husband and the wife must consent and sign. This can all be done in the lawyer's office. However, if one of the parties fails to live up to the bargain, you can go to court to enforce the terms of the contract.

## NDP To Be Implemented

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lowing improvements:

- Street lights will be installed along Cross Street and sections of Lanford Avenue and Grayson Street;
- Water lines will be laid along the same streets;
- Sanitary sewer line will be laid along Cross Street;
- The same streets will be paved;
- A minimum of 24 townhouses will be built along Elizabeth Street north and south of the present route of Redding Drive and Grayson Street;
- Homeowners in that section will be given rehabilitation grants of up to \$3500 to improve their houses.

Martin also pointed out that much of the outside work, estimated to begin no later than February 1, will depend upon the weather. Many other unforeseen factors could also cause delays.

### LAND ACQUIRED

In the meantime, the Redevelopment Commission has acquired or have option on about 50 percent of the land necessary for the construction of the new townhouse dwellings. They are also inspecting homes eligible for the rehabilitation grants.

Engineering plans, as well, are being drawn up for the street paving project, for which bids must be advertised and awarded. This process, Martin said, would probably take until mid-January.

Moore, reflecting the disappointment of many of Southside residents, said the Resident Review Committee

## Mass Meeting Planned

# Chairman Urges Tenants To Unify

A meeting of all High Point public housing residents is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, November 14 and 15, at 7:30 p.m. in Daniel Brooks Recreation Center.

At that meeting, tenants will discuss basic problems they have had as residents of public housing units. Resolutions growing out of these two nights will be presented and discussed in depth at the unity conference planned for December, mentioned below.

Both series are being sponsored by the Resident Council Association, a group of representatives from each of the public housing tenants councils. Ms. Harmon is chairman of the city-wide organization.

To the editor:

Some time in December the Resident Council Association will sponsor a unity conference of public housing tenants.

The conference theme will be "Unity In Our Community and Problems of Living in Public Housing." The initial thrust of this mass tenants' meeting is being directed by public housing tenants themselves, who believe that without unified action on the part of those who are affected most, then solutions will go wanting to such problems as rent inequalities, management, inadequate and poor social services, recreation, maintenance, and other general facilities.

We need to agree on the basic problems we have as tenants, and further,

we need to decide upon how we can best work to solve these common problems.

Some people have told us that we must "wait until we get ourselves together" before we attempt this mass meeting. But then there are many who believe we cannot wait any longer to get action on the conditions we endure and suffer as poor people in public housing. We have to begin now to organize ourselves to make the difference between an impoverished existence and better conditions for all our people.

Finally, we recognize that unless poor people in general who live in public housing begin to act positively and directly to deal with our problems, then no one else will. We must begin to take charge of our own affairs and our own needs to insure our own survival as a people.

The one thing we can do is to meet and discuss together the basic problems. We must take advantage of this right and unify! We must do this or we won't be able to do anything as individuals because the powers we are up against will "beat us down" and destroy us.

This conference has been planned with a view toward the future. The work we have begun to do to unify ourselves within public housing is only a first and basic step in the direction of unifying poor working people throughout High Point.

At the meeting, basic problems which have been identified by public

housing residents will be presented to Housing Authority officials, as well as resolutions and suggestions for action. Methods for solving these problems, we hope, will also grow out of our cooperative efforts.

Tenants should realize that through an ongoing organization made up of poor people like themselves, that we can get things done.

—JUDY HARMON

President,  
Clara Cox Homes Tenants  
Council, and Chairman,  
Resident Council Association

Opinions expressed in letters to the editor are the sole responsibility of the persons who sign them, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this newspaper or of the Model City Commission.

## Youthful Counselors Help Teenagers

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Sometimes no one has ever shown a real interest in them before."

A series of weekend retreats for girls is also being planned. The same 10 girls will go away together with Ms. Botts to "get to know one another and have a fun time, besides making an added step toward trust and friendship."

"You and the Law" is a program being spearheaded by Ms. Williams in the High Point city schools. "The school system has been very enthusiastic and extremely cooperative" in the establishment of this five-week course for seventh-graders, she said.

The course, which will incorporate speakers from the courts, police department and law field, is similar to one sponsored by the Red Cross in Greensboro public schools.

Director Timberlake is optimistic that Youth Services Bureau is becoming known as a resource to help young people solve some of their emotional, social, and personal problems. He is negotiating with the Mental Health Department for psychological services to enhance his staff's capabilities.

"The more involved you get, the less inclined a kid is to do something to let you down," explained Ms. Botts. "But you have to be ready for disappointments, too."

So far, however, the staff is quick to agree that there are more joys than disappointments.

## Mix-Up

In the October 13 edition of What's Happening, the pictures of Gregory Hinson and Ralph Spencer were mixed up and incorrectly identified. Hinson's name appeared under Spencer's picture, and vice versa, on a page headed "What's Happening on Washington Street."

Apologies to these two men for the error.

## Here's An Agency Directory

Got a problem? There's probably a Model Cities agency that can help you solve it. Listed below are some of the agencies planned and funded by Model Cities. Their services are free to Model Neighborhood residents. Call today, and learn how these products of the Model Cities process can benefit you!

Community Mental Health .....	882-4523
Youth Services Bureau .....	886-5181
Sickle Cell Outreach .....	886-7436
Comprehensive Manpower .....	885-2215
Sheltered Workshop .....	883-2716
Vocational Rehabilitation .....	885-6811
Drug Day Program .....	882-2125
Comprehensive Community Child Care .....	885-0161
Consumer Credit Counseling .....	885-0041
Business Development Corp. ....	885-0141
Central Relocation .....	883-7171
Cultural Arts .....	885-0759
Concentrated Social Services .....	885-0121 or 883-2611
Elizabeth Street Health Center .....	885-4826

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