

Business Owners' Steps to **Seperation**

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Step 1 Decide the Business's Future

Even if you're not ready to decide now, it's critical to consider the long-term future of your business. Generally, there are three potential outcomes:

- 1. Continue to co-own the business
- 2. Transfer your ex-spouse's interest (by buying them out or offering other assets)
- 3. Sell the business entirely

Step 2

Take Practical Action

- **1. Obtain a valuation** Decide whether to seek a joint or shadow valuation. Ensure it's prepared in line with the Court's requirements.
- **2. Separate business involvement** If possible, begin the process of removing your spouse from operational roles.
- **3. Offer alternative assets** To retain full business ownership, consider offsetting your spouse's interest with other assets such as superannuation or property.
- **4.** Raise capital if needed If necessary, sell a minority share; possibly via an employee share plan or to a third party.

Step 3

Build the Right Team

Separation involving a business is complex. The right professional support makes the process smoother and more strategic. Your team should include:

- 1. An experienced family lawyer
- 2. Your accountant
- 3. A financial adviser

At Leach Legal, we focus on helping you think financially, not emotionally. We guide business owners through separation with practical, forward-thinking solutions.

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