

Harrington Handcrafts shop opened in July 1974 at 6 Prince Street, Glen Williams. To the right of this building is the oldest school in the Glen, which was built in. Courtesy of Heritage Halton Hills and Esquesing Historical Society.

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What impact can bankruptcy have on my family law issues?

This is a great question. A filing in bankruptcy, especially after parties have separated, can have a significant and complicating impact on family law rights and obligations. When someone goes bankrupt, there is a stay of any proceedings against their estate. That stay then has to be "lifted". The ability to collect a payment for an equalization of net family property can be frustrated and diminished as the non-bankrupt spouse essentially becomes an unsecured creditor along with the bankrupt spouse's other creditors. Although, there are ways to prevent this from happening, or at least minimize the impact. The good news is that bankruptcy does not discharge an obligation for child and/or spousal support, including amounts owed retroactively. If you are the bankrupt spouse, it is important to engage a trustee in bankruptcy. If you are the non-bankrupt spouse, in addition to your family lawyer, you may need the advice of a bankruptcy lawyer who has experience with family law matters. We do a lot of family/divorce law. In light of COVID-19, we are still doing most everything virtually. So we are happy to have an initial Zoom meeting or a telephone call without charge to you to see if we can assist you. Have a great weekend.



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