**Tim and Ricki Role Play Handout**

Ricki - you have been married to Tim since 2008 and have lived together since 2002. You currently rent a home in San Francisco. Tim’s name is on the lease Rents are due to increase in June 2017.

You work in high tech sales at a start up which has not yet attained full funding. There is interest in the company, with the possibility it will be acquired (but there is also a possibility the money will not come in and that layoffs will be necessary).

Tim is a tenured professor and has always been the higher wage earner. He always supported your professional choices and has been actively involved in your career development until about three months ago, when he suddenly got very busy at work.

Tim recently told you that he was seeing someone else and that he would be moving out of the home you rent together and soon after would file for divorce. Tim’s announcement that he was leaving came out of the blue and you are not coping well with it.

You can’t seem to focus on your work and are worried about job security as the company goes through another round of venture capital funding. You are depressed and feeling lost because of what has happened to your relationship.

You are meeting with your attorney for the first time today to see what you need to do before Tim files for divorce.

What will happen to you? You do not know your rights. One of your friends told you that you could get “support for life” so you should not worry about anything. You want to know whether your marriage can be saved.

== Explain this to your attorney.