

LAW OFFICE OF
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WHO GETS THE RINGS?

by Melaney G. Hodge, Esq.

An engagement ring is a gift conditioned upon marriage. Once the marriage occurs, the condition is met and the gift becomes absolute. If the engagement is terminated, precedent dictates that the ring be returned to the giver, as the condition was not fulfilled. In divorce, although the marriage will no longer continue, that does not mean the ring is returned. Because the condition was previously satisfied, the ring belongs absolutely to the recipient.

The wedding ring, however, is considered a marital asset, as it was bought during the marriage venture. Like the house or furniture therein, the wedding rings are personal property to be divided at the time of divorce.

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