

The Five Stages of Loss in Family Proceedings

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1

Introduction

What are we doing here?

- Losses are inevitable
- The nature of family proceedings
- Potential ramifications
- Client management

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2

What are the Five Stages?

1. Denial
2. Anger
3. Bargaining
4. Depression
5. Acceptance



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Consequences

What happens when it all goes wrong?

- Appeal
- Complaints
- Regulatory referral
- Professional negligence



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Denial

- "This can't be happening" or "I can't believe the Judge made *that* decision"
- Ignoring post-hearing correspondence
- Ignoring fee chasers



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Anger

- "That Judge was a complete idiot! Come to think of it, *you* were a complete idiot!"
- Judge
- Solicitor/barrister
- Opponent



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Bargaining

- "We must be able to appeal this?!"
- Post-match analysis
- Order drafting



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Depression

- "What was the point in even trying?" or "They always get their own way"
- Quiet resignation
- Actual tears →



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Acceptance

- Emotions still there, but manageable
- Hopefulness
- Able to "live with it"



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9

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Acceptance

How to help a client reach, and maintain, acceptance?

- Manage expectations
- Find the human connection
- Nothing



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10

It's time for *Questions & Answers*



Questions welcome

11

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12
