

# Dividing Stuff

The following material has been adapted with permission from July 2002 Collaborative Training Materials of Palliser Conflict Resolution, Inc. (PCR Inc.) who credited Marilyn Hermann with contributing to its authorship.

**If after all this you still cannot agree, consider these if you can have a sense of humor:**

Seven Fun Ways to Divide Furniture and Art If You Cannot Agree And Have a Sense of Humor (Sense of humor is **not** optional)

1. **Pin the tail on the dining room table.** Think of pin the tail on the donkey. Take pictures of all disputed furniture. Put the pictures on a wall or corkboard. Alternate blindfolding each other and trying to “pin the tail” on the furniture you want. Blindfold is not optional. Number of times to spin around before attempting to pin is optional.
2. **Chicken Pickin.** Borrow two chickens from a local farmer. Designate one chicken as “his” and one as “hers.” Assign numbers to each item of disputed furniture. Create a posterboard with a square with a number for each disputed piece of furniture. Put a kernel of corn on each numbered box. Let the chickens go at it. Whatever items of furniture each chicken “picks” belongs to the “his” or “hers.” If there are no chickens available, two children under 10 months old can be substituted for the chickens.
3. **Pitching Quarters.** Create a list of the disputed property. As each item comes up on the list, the parties each “pitch” one quarter up against a wall. The party’s quarter that lands closest to the wall “wins” the item in dispute. If one party is a star quarter pitcher, flipping the quarters can be substituted.
4. **Carnival Darts.** Take pictures of the disputed items and put them on a wall. Create a line fifteen feet from the wall. Take turns throwing the darts from behind the line. Each party wins whatever furniture they hit with the dart. The loser has to also repair the wall.
5. **Carnival Ducks.** Buy however many plastic ducks are necessary such that each duck is numbered and represents one piece of disputed furniture. Put the numbered ducks in your swimming pool, bathtub, or other private body of water. Stir. Alternate picking ducks.
6. **Property Blackjack or Property Poker.** Play a hand of blackjack or poker to decide the fate of each item of disputed furniture. You can make the jokers or one-eyed jacks claim especially coveted items.
7. **Rock, Paper, Scissors.** Use this time tested school yard game to decide the future ownership of any precious furniture and priceless works of art. If there are any sore losers you can choose to invoke the “best two out of three” option.

Barbara Ann Bartlett

2123 South Atlanta Place, Suite 100, Tulsa, OK 74114 Phone (918) 584-1894 Fax (918) 584-1891

[Barbara@DontFightAboutIt.com](mailto:Barbara@DontFightAboutIt.com)