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Divorce lawyers offer opinions on Tiger saga

With Tiger Woods' wife, Elin Nordegren, having moved out this week with their two children, what's next for golf's first family?

A half-dozen local divorce lawyers who have made a living handling the splits of top pro athletes report that none of them has heard from Woods or Nordegren.

Yet. But with the list of Woods' alleged paramours growing by the day — porn star Holly Sampson also may have been a member of Woods' harem — so does the embarrassment for Nordegren.

"If there were such a thing as a divorce, I'm not sure they'd pick Orlando lawyers," said Martin Haines, who recently worked for Australian golfer Greg Norman. Norman's divorce from his longtime wife, Laura Andrassy, cost more than \$100 million.

"I think they'll reach out to lawyers in South Florida. But you can expect this divorce, if there is one, will be negotiated and settled privately. It's obviously

best for Tiger Woods to keep this under lock and key."

Joel Weissman, who handled NASCAR ace Jeff Gordon's spectacular divorce from his first wife in 2002-03 in Delray Beach, said a lawyer is not what Woods and wife currently need.

"They need a good marriage counselor," Weissman said. "I assume they have a prenup agreement, so they should relax and go to a counselor first. Then they can seek legal help if they don't resolve anything."

If they were to go further, what kind of money could Nordegren expect?

First, the local attorneys agree that it'd be crazy for Woods not to have sought a prenuptial agreement.

"It's 50-50 the day you get married un-

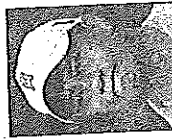
less you have a prenup," Weissman said. Several news organizations have claimed Woods' prenup would mandate him to pay the wife \$300 million if they split, but Weissman and his colleague Howard Rudolph said that's complete bunk. Try \$10 million, according to the pros.

"For a marriage this short (five years), there's no way," Weissman said of the 300 mil. "Usually, prenups are incremental. The higher the number of years together, the higher the amount."

Said Rudolph, who recently represented Woods' friend, Orlando golfer Mark O'Meara, in his divorce: "You figure \$2 million per year of marriage with a cap at \$20 million."

In the end, said attorney Haines, the big money could be for Woods' two children, a 4-year-old girl and a 9-month-old boy.

"Children are usually not included in prenups," Haines said, "but they'd have a significant claim."



Woods