Divorce Grounds

South Carolina has 5 grounds for divorce. Four are fault grounds: adultery; habitual drunkenness or narcotics abuse; physical cruelty and one year’s desertion. One year’s separation is the no-fault ground.

When a party does not have grounds for divorce, then he or she typically physically separates from the other party (living under a different roof) and files for separation, formally known as “an Order of Separate Support and Maintenance.”