

CHECKLIST FOR DIVORCEES



Divorce is an emotionally traumatizing, life-changing event. It can seem overwhelming to navigate and even more impossible to determine where to begin. Use this checklist as a starting point as you begin to unravel the complications of your divorce. If you need assistance, please reach out to us. We know this time can be challenging and stressful - we'd love to help.

BUILD YOUR STRATEGIC TEAM

Divorce attorney, tax professional, financial advisor, mediator, divorce coach, family and youth counselor.

PREPARING FOR THE DIVORCE

Obtain legal counsel specializing in divorce

Obtain copies of important documents:
Existing marriage and divorce paperwork (i.e. prenuptial/postnuptial agreement, court orders)

You, spouse, children:
Birth certificates, social security numbers

Financial and legal accounts documents:
Credit cards, automobile titles, household bills, assets, insurance, property title, mortgages, investment and retirement accounts, wills, debts (business loans, personal loans, etc.)

Get personal and business tax returns (3 yrs)

Run credit report

Employment records

Make a timeline of important events

Change your passwords and turn off shared devices and shared "cloud" services

Open a P.O. Box

Consider a separate bank account and/or credit card

Establish a secure email address

Prioritize self-care

DURING THE DIVORCE

Keep a journal

Avoid social media

Consider re-entering the workforce

Leverage your team of trusted professionals

Continue to prioritize self-care, focus on loved ones

AFTER THE DIVORCE

Keep a hard copy and electronic copies of your final divorce decree

Make changes accordingly:

- Updating names on titles and insurance policies to all property and automobiles
- Remove your name from any debts that are no longer your responsibility
- Close shared accounts, make sure there are no outstanding payments that need to clear, open new accounts
- Update auto-bills to the appropriate accounts

Update your name and address on all accounts and recurring bills, if applicable

Create a budget for your new lifestyle, consider re-entering the workforce

Update or create new retirement plan

Update or create new estate plan

Update beneficiary information on all life insurance and retirement accounts

Obtain health insurance, if necessary

Update tax withholding with your employer