

Checklist for Divorcees



Becoming suddenly single, whether expected or unexpected, can be one of the most complex emotional and financial situations an individual can experience. Educational resources, such as a starting point of where to begin, can help alleviate some uncertainty. We hope the below checklist is a supportive resource and as always, we encourage you to speak to a professional advisor for guidance.

Strategic Partners:

Grief counselor, family and youth counselor, divorce attorney, tax attorney, financial advisor

Preparing for a 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)
- Personal and business tax returns
- 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
- Prioritize self-care

During a Divorce:

- Keep a journal
- Avoid social media
- Consider re-entering the workforce if not already working
- Leverage your team of trusted professionals
- Continue to prioritize self-care, focus on loved ones
- Any division of investment accounts and 401k's, make sure its done properly to avoid potential tax consequences

After a 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 life style, consider re-entering the workforce
- Update or create new retirement and estate plans
- Update beneficiary information on all life insurance and retirement accounts
- Obtain health insurance, if necessary



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