



## DIVORCE CHECKLIST

- Each spouse should hire an attorney and discuss who will pay legal fees.
- Inventory all property, real and personal, and note the form of title in which all such property is held. Review your state's laws on property distribution.
- Make a list of all income and expenses.
- Review all policies of life, health, and disability coverage. Modify coverage as required by divorce, and alter beneficiary designations as appropriate. Follow through on any action required by the divorce decree, e.g., one parent's duty to maintain health coverage on children of the marriage. Examine other health insurance coverage options (e.g. COBRA) should your health insurance be provided under your spouse's insurance and terminate upon divorce.
- Review all marital and personal debt, and all grounds for potential liability, and each spouse should consult with their respective counsel on the responsibility for payment as part of the marital dissolution. Order credit reports to determine each spouse's responsibility for each debt.
- Make a decision on your filing status on your income tax return.
- Revoke or modify any power of attorney or appointment of health care representative if former spouse has been designated.
- If children are involved, each spouse should discuss with their respective counsel the visitation and custody issues, the child's medical expenses, education and other incidentals.
- Review and change wills, trusts, business buyout agreements, and related personal planning documents as appropriate.

- When negotiating property alimony payments, child support payments, and property division, consider any income tax consequences that may derive from proposed settlements.
  
- Revoke authorized users with respect to credit card and charge accounts; change passwords and access PINs.
  
- A spouse whose surname changes as a result of divorce should have personal documents reissued in the new surname.
  
- Examine how Social Security benefits may be affected.

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