



Questions to Consider When Getting Divorced

1. Who will stay in the home?
2. Who will pay the mortgage (and other regular expenses such as gas, electricity, property tax, and home repairs) while you're apart?
3. How will you share the money in your joint bank accounts?
4. How will you share assets such as stocks and bonds? How about the pension(s)?
5. Who keeps the family home/car/boat/washing machine, etc.? How will you split big-ticket items?
6. Are there any joint credit cards? Have you considered cancelling or freezing them? If you've never had credit in your own name, however, you should consider applying for your own credit card before the joint cards are canceled.
7. How will you handle your current debts?
8. Who will be responsible for the debts either of you incur while you're separated?
9. Will you continue to file joint income tax returns? Are there taxes due, or other problems pertaining to joint tax returns that will surface after the divorce? These will have to be addressed in division of property and liabilities.
10. Have you discussed spousal support? How much will it be? Will it be in the form of a lump-sum or periodic payments? When will the payments end? How you choose to pay spousal support can affect your tax status.
11. Have you discussed child support? How much will it be? When will the payments be made? When will they end?
12. Will one or both of you be contributing to a college fund for your children? How will the payments be made?
13. How will you share responsibility for the care and raising of your children; joint, sole, or shared custody? When will the children be staying with each of you?
14. Who will pay for legal fees and financial advice? Will each of you be responsible for retaining and paying for your own lawyer?
15. Have you created a budget?
16. Are you taking care of yourself, and keeping yourself healthy through the process? Therapy/counseling, exercise, stress-relief?