

POST DIVORCE CHECKLIST

Make sure that you know what your spending plan is and that you monitor your income and expenses against it monthly.

If there has been a division of a pension, 401k or IRA, you need to make sure that a Qualified Domestic Relations Order has been prepared, agreed by the Court, submitted to the fund administrator, and implemented correctly. If you are the recipient of the funds, you need to make sure that you have a suitable account to which the funds can be transferred.

Change titles on assets, such as cars and houses. Record changes with mortgage company.

Prepare new wills and trust documents.

Update your estate plan/financial plan.

Make sure all joint credit card accounts have been closed.

Change the name on the utility bills to reflect who is now responsible.

Obtain personal auto insurance.

Change beneficiaries on life insurance, 401k, pensions, IRA accounts.

Update your mailing address with credit card companies, banks, motor vehicle department and insurance companies.

If you changed your name as a result of the divorce, get a new Social Security Card, driver's license, passport, and credit cards. Notify your bank, stockbroker and children's school of your change of name.

Close joint safety deposit or post office boxes, and open new ones if needed.

Keep your attorney and other advisors informed of your contact details, as changes in the law may affect your case.

Obtain a certified copy of your final decree.

Obtain a new copy of your credit report to make sure that the accounts you closed were really closed and that the credit agency file has been updated.

Make sure you are covered by health insurance, whether that is through Cobra benefits from your former spouse's employer, through your own employer, or through a self-employed scheme.

If you were married for at least 10 years, you are entitled to make a claim against your former spouse's Social Security. At the time you are eligible for Social Security, you can receive either 100% of your benefit entitlement, or 50% of your former spouse's entitlement. See www.ssa.gov.

Keep records of payment or receipt of alimony/maintenance, child support and other support payments made to, or received from your former spouse.

Keep records of your children's medical costs, including insurance claims, copays, etc.

If co-parenting is an issue, then keep records of how the visits with the other parent went and any specific problems that may have arisen.

Make sure you have the Social Security numbers of your former spouse and your children. You may need them for tax returns.

You may need your former spouse to sign an IRS Form 8225 to indicate what your agreement is regarding claiming the children as exemptions.

Update the children's schools about contact information of you and former spouse, emergency contacts, school pick-ups/drop-offs, etc.