



PRE-DIVORCE CHECKLIST

- Inventory all property, real and personal, and note the form of title in which all such property is held—i.e. whose name it is listed under.
- Make copies of statements for all bank accounts, credit card accounts, retirement accounts and any other financial or liability accounts.
- Run a credit check on yourself and if possible your spouse.
- If applicable run a criminal background check on your spouse or work with an attorney to do so.
- Make copies of Tax Returns for the past three years.
- Make copies of all Insurance policies.
- Make a list of all Debts for you and your spouse and make copies of any statements provided for such debts.
- Create a personal information sheet:
 - Each spouse's name, date of birth, and Social Security number
 - Names and birth dates of children; current school information
 - Date and place of marriage and length of time in present state
 - Other states you have lived in during your marriage
 - Information about prior marriages and children
 - Date of separation (or projected date of separation)
 - Current occupation of spouses and name/address of employers
 - Education and degrees of each spouse
 - Is there a family business or businesses?
- Make copies of any and all pay stubs for both you and your spouse.
- Open a checking and savings account in your name only—if you don't already have one.
 - Make sure to have enough in it to cover your expenses until your next pay period in case your spouse takes money out of all joint accounts.
- Contact your banking institutions and credit card companies and ask what if any actions you can take to protect your assets and personal information and debt liability during a divorce.
- Work with an Attorney to understand the legal ramifications of divorce, your actions, and how to protect yourself, your children, and your financial wellbeing through this difficult legal process.