

# 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.

Use this checklist as a resource to alleviate the uncertainty of where to begin. Please contact us should you have any questions or need assistance.

## 01 Strategic Partners

- Grief counselor
- Family & youth counselor
- Divorce attorney
- Tax attorney
- Financial advisor

## 02 Checklist Preparing for Divorce

- Obtain legal counsel specializing in divorce
- Obtain copies of important documents:
  - Existing marriage & 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 & retirement accounts, wills, debts (*business loans, personal loans*)
- Personal & business tax returns
- Employment records
- Make a timeline of important events
- Change your passwords & turn off shared devices & shared “cloud” services
- Open a P.O. Box
- Consider a separate bank account and/or credit card
- Prioritize self-care

## 03 Checklist for Women During a Divorce

- Keep a journal
- Avoid social media
- Consider re-entering the workforce
- Leverage your team of trusted professionals
- Continue to prioritize self-care, focus on loved ones

## 04 Checklist for Women After a Divorce

- Keep a hard copy & electronic copies of your final divorce decree
- Make changes accordingly:
  - Updating names on titles & insurance policies to all property & 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 & address on all accounts & recurring bills
- Create a budget for your new lifestyle
- Update or create new retirement & estate plans
- Update beneficiary information on all life insurance & retirement plans
- Obtain health insurance, if necessary