

Pre-Divorce Checklist

Collect documents

- ☐ Your marriage certificate
- ☐ Any prenup
- ☐ Any legal separation decree
- ☐ Any child custody order involving either or both of you
- ☐ Any adoption documentation
- ☐ Any restraining orders
- ☐ Financial statements (and know how to pull newer copies later)
- ☐ Medical records, if relevant

Speak to people

- ☐ Consult a lawyer
- ☐ Talk to your spouse about the end of your relationship and the legal steps you're taking
- ☐ Establish how you'll interact with each other's new partners
- ☐ Craft an agreement about child custody, child support and property division
- ☐ Tell your child about the divorce

Practice good money habits

- ☐ Separate your bank accounts
- ☐ Open a credit card if you don't already have one
- ☐ Keep it modest (Don't spend lavishly or hide lots of cash.)
- ☐ Have a short-term plan for income and housing during your divorce
- ☐ Keep up with any obligations (health checkups, home repair, debt repayments, etc.)
- ☐ Build an emergency fund

Protect yourself

- ☐ Find out whether and when your health insurance will change
- ☐ Back up your data (if you fear your spouse taking your device)
- ☐ Secure belongings your spouse might sell or destroy (e.g., jewelry or papers)
- ☐ Set boundaries for how you'll respect each other's space and privacy
- ☐ Move (or cooperate with your spouse moving out)