



# THE DIVORCE COST-CUTTING BLUEPRINT

7 smart moves before you call a lawyer

A practical guide by Divorce Co-Pilots

## Before You Call a Lawyer, Read This

Preparation is key. Before you even *think* about calling a lawyer, take the time to get your ducks in a row. This guide will help you approach your divorce with **clarity**, **strategy**, and **financial control**. Starting with a clear vision and a well-thought-out plan can save you time, money, and emotional distress. Get ready to be proactive and take charge of your divorce process.

### **Smart Move #1: Get Clear on the Outcome You Want**

What do you *really* want out of this divorce? Spend some time visualizing your ideal future. What does it look like financially? Where are you living? How are the kids doing? Define your goals *before* emotions take over. Knowing what you want will keep you focused.

### **Smart Move #3: Know the Triggers—and Avoid Them**

Divorce is an emotional minefield. Identify your triggers – those topics or behaviors that set you off. Then, consciously avoid them. Emotional reactions often lead to poor decisions. Prioritize staying calm and rational, even when it's difficult.

### **Smart Move #2: Create a One-Page Summary of Key Facts**

Organize the essential details of your marriage: assets, debts, income, and expenses. A concise, one-page summary will be invaluable to your lawyer (and yourself!). This isn't about telling a story; it's about presenting the facts in a clear, easy-to-understand format. Think bullet points and numbers.

### **Smart Move #4: Understand the Power of Timing**

When you initiate certain actions can significantly impact the outcome of your divorce. Consider the timing of filing, negotiations, and major financial decisions. Consult with a professional to understand the best course of action for your specific situation. Sometimes, patience is your best strategy.

### **Smart Move #5: Stop Paying Lawyers to Organize Your Life**

Lawyers charge by the hour. Don't waste money having them sort through your documents or chase down information. Take responsibility for organizing your financial records, correspondence, and other relevant materials *before* consulting with an attorney. The more prepared you are, the less you'll spend.

### **Smart Move #6: Surround Yourself with the Right Support**

Divorce is isolating. Build a support team of friends, family, therapists, and financial advisors. Don't rely solely on your lawyer for emotional support. Having a strong network will help you navigate the process with greater resilience.

## **Smart Move #7: Build Your Own Roadmap With a Divorce Copilot**

Take a proactive approach to planning your divorce. We outline the specific steps you need to take, from gathering financial documents to researching legal options. Consider using our checklists and templates to stay organized and on track. This proactive planning can make the entire process more manageable.

### **Key Takeaways**

- **Preparation is Paramount:** The more prepared you are, the better the outcome.
- **Emotional Regulation is Key:** Manage your emotions and avoid impulsive decisions.
- **Strategy Saves Money:** A well-thought-out plan can minimize costs and stress.

### **Your Next Step**

Download our **Divorce Clarity Tool Kit** from [www.divorcecopilots.com](http://www.divorcecopilots.com) to get started.