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2025 DIVORCE CHECKLIST

Preparing yourself for the journey ahead

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PREPARING FOR DIVORCE

This guide is intended to give you pointers on how to prepare for a divorce. This book is not intended to be legal advice. Always consult with an attorney directly to find out what is best practice for your case.



JESSICA ESTORGA

SENIOR ATTORNEY & SHAREHOLDER

Jessica Estorga has been practicing family law for over a decade. She has had multiple speaking engagements and been recognized by various organizations for her accomplishments.

Ms. Estorga's experience both in and outside the courtroom has guided countless people through the divorce process. Her experience involves complex divorces, high net-worth divorces, and military divorces.

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CONSULT WITH A DIVORCE ATTORNEY

Schedule a consultation with a qualified Texas divorce attorney to understand your rights, obligations, and the legal process.



PLAN FOR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

While the divorce is pending, where are you going to live? Does it make sense to stay in the marital home or move out? How does this impact children in the home? Finances? Long term division of property?

UNDERSTAND TEXAS COMMUNITY PROPERTY LAWS

Texas is a community property state, meaning assets and debts acquired during the marriage are typically divided equally. There are exceptions to this and it is important to talk with an attorney to better understand how the law applies to your case.



GATHER FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

Start collecting and organize the following documents:

- Tax returns (last 3–5 years)
- Bank and credit card statements
- Pay stubs and W-2/1099 forms
- Retirement and investment account statements
- Mortgage and loan documents
- Insurance policies (life, health, auto, etc.)
- Business ownership records (if applicable)



You may be asked for much more, but this is a good place to start.



DOCUMENT ASSETS AND DEBTS

Make a list of all assets, including real estate, vehicles, and personal property. Document debts, such as mortgages, car loans, and credit card balances. Take photographs of valuable items and get appraisals.

PREPARE FOR CHILD CUSTODY AND SUPPORT

Begin gathering school records, medical histories, and childcare expenses.

Document any communication with your spouse regarding custody and support.



CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION OR COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE

Explore mediation or collaborative divorce options to resolve disputes amicably. These methods can be less costly and stressful than traditional litigation.



ESTABLISH A POST-DIVORCE BUDGET

It is never too soon to start planning what post divorce life looks like. Estimate your income and expenses as a single individual. Consider how that new budget may impact your family's living situation, monthly budget, and expenses. Working backwards also allows you to explore how different divisions of the community property may best suit your future situation.



SET UP A SUPPORT SYSTEM

Divorces are stressful and in some cases can last for years. Having a support system in place, whether it be friends, family, or a counselor are key in helping you unpack the daily stressors that come with going through a divorce.





TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

Keep a routine, exercise, journal, meet up with friends/family. This is going to be one of the most stressful events in your life and it is important to continue forging a life outside of the divorce.

CONCLUSION

No two divorces are the same. Talking to a divorce attorney that is experienced is going to be key to making a plan that is specific to your case.

As you move forward in the process remember that communication with your attorney is key. Make sure you are both on the same page about what your goals and expectations are. If those are not aligned, it may not be the right fit.

At the end of the day this is your divorce, your life, your family. The goals need to fit what makes sense for you.

Ultimately nobody can promise you any outcome, but clear communication and planning can help you get closer to preparing the best case possible.

If you are looking to get started, feel free to give us a call to schedule a consultation.

