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Modern Baby Checklist



10 Things To Do Before Your Baby Arrives

Our Baby Checklist is the practical side of planning for parenthood — the things people do not realize they need to think about until they are already overwhelmed. It is the quiet little list that helps you get ahead of the paperwork, protections, and decisions no one warns you about.



- ☐ **1. We have a will in place (or know exactly who would raise our child)**
- ☐ We have named a guardian
- ☐ We understand that without a will, a court decides
- ☐ We are not “waiting until later.”



- ☐ **2. We have a healthcare proxy / medical directive**
- ☐ Someone is legally authorized to make decisions if needed
- ☐ We are not relying on “they’ll just let my partner decide”
- ☐ We know hospitals follow documents, not assumptions



- ☐ **3. We understand what our health insurance will actually cost us**
- ☐ We know our deductible
- ☐ We know our coinsurance / out-of-pocket max
- ☐ We checked if ALL providers (OB, hospital, anesthesiologist) are in-network
- ☐ We are not assuming “it’s covered”



- ☐ **4. We know what income (if any) is coming in during leave**
- ☐ We understand the difference between job protection and pay
- ☐ We checked employer policy
- ☐ We checked state benefits (if applicable)
- ☐ We are not assuming we’ll be paid



- ☐ **5. We have a plan for when and how to tell an employer**
- ☐ We understand our legal protections
- ☐ We are not guessing timing
- ☐ We have thought through workplace dynamics



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☐ **6. If we are not married — we understand our legal position**

- ☐ We know there is no automatic protection
- ☐ We understand what happens if we break up
- ☐ We have discussed whether we need a cohabitation agreement



☐ **7. We understand legal parentage (especially if using IVF, surrogacy, or adoption)**

- ☐ We know who is legally recognized as a parent
- ☐ We are not assuming biology = legal rights
- ☐ We know if additional legal steps are required



☐ **8. Our beneficiaries are updated**

- ☐ Life insurance reflects current wishes
- ☐ Retirement accounts are updated
- ☐ We understand these override a will



☐ **9. We have discussed “what if something goes wrong”**

- ☐ We know who makes decisions in an emergency
- ☐ We understand our options (not in the moment, but before)
- ☐ We are not avoiding the conversation



☐ **10. We are legally prepared — not just emotionally prepared**

- ☐ We have handled (or scheduled) the items above
- ☐ We are not relying on Google, friends, or assumptions
- ☐ We understand this is part of preparing for a baby

Ready for the Next Step?

If you didn't confidently check most of these...
you are exactly where most people are. And that's the problem.

I Want to Have a Baby What Do I Do Now? walks through each of these in real terms —
what it actually means, what to expect, and what to do about it.

Need a will, prenup or another legal document? Schedule a Consult.

Call 201.330.0061

Or visit www.bridelawyer.com to learn more.

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