

Post-Divorce Check List

Personal Care	
	If you are feeling a sense of loss or grief, find a local divorce support group or go see a counselor who specializes in divorce therapy.
	Take some time for some personal interests and care - schedule it in weekly until you have established a new routine.
Property & Asset Records	
	Organize the retitling of assets: collect documents and file for all cars, boats, planes and other recreational vehicles. Once complete, file new documents with the DMV or other agencies as needed.
	Record the deeds that transfer title to real property.
	Check with your various companies to get deposit returned and divided (utility, cable, etc.)
	Forward your mail as appropriate (post office can be completed online).
	Arrange for transfer of personal property in one meeting or as few meetings as possible to help protect your well-being.
Banking	
	Open new checking and savings accounts.
	Change all automatic payments to a new institution.
	Close all joint checking and savings accounts once all outstanding checks and automatic payments have cleared. It is recommended you leave 30 days as a buffer to make sure nothing bounces.
	Change passwords to all banking account institutions and remove authorization to see old accounts if one party is to keep them.
	Close safety deposit boxes and open new ones in your sole name and ownership.
Investment Accounts	
	Change named beneficiaries on your brokerage accounts, retirement accounts.
	Set up an appointment with your financial advisor to reassess goals and needs based on your new status and life plans
	Actionable tasks with financial advisor: new risk tolerance questionnaire, new comprehensive retirement plan including cash projections based on new investments and portfolios.
	Social Security planning based on your new marital status.
	Check investments within the brokerage accounts for risk tolerance alignment.
	QDRO - Qualified Domestic Relations Order is required by final judgement to transfer ERISA guided retirement plans. If a QDRO applies to your case, please call the Plan Administrator directly. You will need to send them the necessary documents to prove the divorce (decree or Marital Settlement Agreement (MSA)) and discuss your options around transfer. Your financial planner should be able to assist you in this process.
	If an Individual Retirement Account (IRA, Rollover IRA, or Roth IRA) needs to be transferred, open up a new account with your financial advisor at a custodian of your choice and transfer the investments over to your name. If transferring "in kind" be sure to review the investments to make sure they fit

Compliments of Strada Wealth Management, a fee-only registered investment advisory firm specializing in post-divorce life matters.

www.stradamanagement.com

	your new risk tolerance profile.
	The distributing spouse of the IRA funds need to inform their custodian of the transfer and sign the required paperwork to allow you to initiate the transfer.
Estate, Wills and Trusts	
	If you did not change your will before the divorce was final, please do so right away. This includes health directives and powers of attorney.
	Will
	Power of Attorney/Living Will (ensure all Powers' of Attorney as revoked in writing)
	Health Directives
	Trusts
	Health Care Surrogate
Name Changes	
	Update Social Security Administration. You can make an appointment.
	Update driver's license.
	Contact auto registration with the Department of Motor Vehicles
	Update all credit card companies.
	Update employment records
	Update IRS records
	Notify employer if applicable and change human resource forms on file.
	Update professional license agencies and associations.
	Update all insurances (life, disability, home, auto, and health).
	Update passport and GOES (if applicable).
Credit Cards/Credit Review	
	Open new credit card in your name and social security number.
	If not completed before the divorce was final, close all joint credit card accounts.
	If not completed before the divorce was final, request a credit report, review it for accuracy. Do this again in 6 months after the divorce is final to ensure joint accounts are closed.
Outstanding and Recurring Bills	
	Request a final bill from your legal counsel and other divorce professionals and ensure it gets paid.
	Call cable, water, electric and home phone providers to change billing name and address if applicable.
Personal Security and Safety	
	If applicable, change alarm codes (secret passwords as well when you call into the company) and locks on the house
	Change safe codes in the home.

Compliments of Strada Wealth Management, a fee-only registered investment advisory firm specializing in post-divorce life matters.

www.stradamanagement.com

	Consider opening a P.O. Box to have as your billing address - this helps prevent against identity theft.
Insurance	
	Change the auto insurance policy ownership, billing and contact information.
	Contact the home owner's company and change name, billing and contact information.
	Contact the life insurance company to change beneficiaries on policies and get it in writing.
	Contact the disability policy company and change necessary contact information.
Social Security/Medicare	
	If turning 65, do a comprehensive benefit analysis on Social Security filing.
	Have planner take you to the SS office to file, file and suspend or defer election based on the planning results.
	Apply for Medicare and research good FL supplemental plans. If applicable, apply for dental and vision as well.
Taxes	
	Obtain IRS Publication 504, "Divorced or Separated Individuals" for information about filing status, exemptions, alimony, QDROs, etc.
	Plan a meeting with your financial manager and your CPA to discuss tax implications of receipt of alimony, quarterly payments, tax withholding allowances and new tax status.
	IRS withholding calculator is a good resource to assist you if your CPA is not available: http://www.irs.gov/individuals/IRS-Withholding-Calculator
	Depending on your final decree or MSA, execute IRS Form 8332, Transfer of Dependency Exemption - check your final terms to deem applicable.
Parenting	
	Consider using a online calendaring system for your family's needs. http://www.ourfamilywizard.com/ofw
	Update school records with name and address of both parents.
	Update medical records and all emergency numbers with name and address of both parents.
	If applicable, set-up a direct deposit or Income Withholding Order for child support payments.