

A hand with grey nail polish holds a black pencil over an open notebook. The notebook is on a wooden surface. In the background, there are white flowers and a white cup of coffee.

10 Things To Do If Divorce Is Imminent

D S C

Practical support and guidance
through an imminent divorce.
The MUST do's.

10 THINGS TO DO IF DIVORCE IS IMMINENT

1

Consult a lawyer

Become informed about your legal rights and responsibilities. For example, suppose you decide to take the children and live at your parents' house until the divorce is final. From a legal point of view, moving to your parents' home, even temporarily, could be a huge mistake.

2

Copy documents

Go through household files and make copies of everything you can find: tax returns, bank statements, check registers, investment statements, retirement account statements, employee benefits handbooks, life insurance policies, mortgage documents, financial statements, credit card statements, wills, Tax statements, automobile titles, etc. If your spouse is self-employed, it is important to gather as much information as possible about the finances of the business. Make copies of any financial data stored on your home computer.

3

Inventory household and family possessions

List the major items: furniture, artwork, jewellery, appliances, automobiles, etc. Don't forget to check the storage areas of your home and your safe deposit box for valuables. (Being aware of all the marital assets is important when it comes time to split up the property.)

4

Know the household budget and expenses

If possible, go through your check register for the past year and write down each utility, mortgage, and other household expense for each month. Keep track of the cash you spend on a daily basis so that you'll be able to ascertain your monthly cash expenditures also

5

Find out exactly what your spouse earns

If your spouse earns a regular salary, it is easy to look at a payslip; if your spouse is self-employed, owns a business, or receives any portion of income in cash, do your best to keep track of the money flowing in for several months. (If you think your spouse is trying to conceal money from employment, see [How Your Spouse Can Hide Money Through Employment](#).)

6

Make a realistic appraisal of your earning potentials

Perhaps you have been out of the workforce for a while and have been devoting yourself to childrearing. Assess what your current employability is and whether furthering your education prior to divorce would benefit you in the long run.

7

Examine your own credit history

If you do not have credit cards in your own name, apply for them now, use them, and establish your own credit history. If you have a poor credit history, try to pay creditors now and improve your own credit rating prior to divorce.

8

Build a 'Nest Egg' of your own

You should always have access to money of your own. If your spouse moves out and stops paying bills, you will need to pay them until temporary support orders can be entered. If you are the one who is going to file for divorce, you'll need money for a retainer. Start saving now and plan to initiate divorce proceedings when you have built up a nest egg of your own.

9

Put your kids at the top of your agenda

During the divorce process, keep your children's routines as normal as possible. If you and your spouse cannot be together with the children without arguing, create a schedule of separate times for each of you to be with the children. Stay involved (or become involved) in your children's school, sports, and social activities. Do not badmouth your spouse to your children. Put your children first in your life

10

Get informed

It's important to be aware of all the potential issues you'll face and understand how the divorce process works. **Find out:**

1. What type of divorce you're facing;
2. How marital property will likely be split between you and your spouse;
3. How custody of the child(ren) will be determined;

More information about different aspect of divorce and state by state laws can also be found at this link.
www.divorcenet.com/topics/dissolution-marriage