Divorce Planning Checklists

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Planning ahead during divorce can help reduce stress, save time, and protect your rights. Use these checklists to stay organized and confident at every stage of the process.

# Pre-Divorce Planning Checklist

☐ Gather financial records (bank statements, credit card statements, tax returns, mortgage documents).

☐ Make a list of assets and debts, including property, vehicles, retirement accounts, and loans.

☐ Research your rights and responsibilities under California divorce law.

☐ Create a budget for your current expenses and estimate future expenses post-divorce.

☐ Consider temporary living arrangements and child care needs.

☐ Secure important personal documents (passport, birth certificate, marriage certificate).

☐ Change passwords on personal accounts (email, banking, cloud storage) if needed.

☐ Write down questions to ask your paralegal or attorney.

# During Divorce Planning Checklist

☐ Keep all divorce-related documents in one place (binder or secure digital folder).

☐ Track all court deadlines and hearing dates on a dedicated calendar.

☐ Review all legal forms before submitting to ensure accuracy.

☐ Communicate regularly with your paralegal or attorney.

☐ Document all communications with your spouse regarding children, finances, or agreements.

☐ Stay on top of financial obligations (temporary support, shared bills, etc.).

☐ Follow any temporary court orders regarding custody or property.

☐ Make time for self-care to manage emotional stress.

# Post-Divorce Planning Checklist

☐ Update your will, trust, and beneficiary designations.

☐ Change titles and registrations for vehicles or property as needed.

☐ Review and adjust your budget to reflect your new circumstances.

☐ Close or update joint bank accounts and open new accounts in your name.

☐ Ensure child custody and visitation schedules are in place and documented.

☐ Update your name on identification, financial accounts, and utilities if applicable.

☐ Confirm all property and asset divisions are completed.

☐ Consider meeting with a financial advisor for long-term planning.