



8 Essential Proactive Measures to Take Before Filing for Divorce

Deciding to get a divorce is a huge decision that will impact every aspect of your life, and it is certainly not something you want to rush into without properly preparing yourself. If you are thinking about filing for a divorce, you'll want to take some time and complete some important tasks before you move forward. Following the advice in this report will ensure you are positioned well to ensure your divorce goes smoothly and you don't regret your decisions.

Seek Marriage Counseling

You might be surprised to hear this from a divorce attorney, but it is true. Divorce should always be the last option, so make sure you give your marriage every possible chance at success. If you haven't already, consider seeing a marriage counselor to see if the problems in your relationship can be fixed. Many people are surprised to find that with a little help, they can get their marriage back on track.

Even if your spouse refuses to go to counseling, make an appointment for yourself. Talking with a professional is a great way to start working through some of the emotions that are associated with getting a divorce.

With all that said, you should keep in mind that divorce should never be feared or avoided if it is truly the best thing for your health and happiness, as well as the health and happiness of your children.

Make a List of Everything You Own

During the divorce process everything you and your spouse own will have to be divided up between the two of you. Having a full list of all your assets is an important place to start. This list should include all real estate, cars, financial accounts, and anything else of real value. When making the list, think about which things you really want to keep, and which ones you are ok with your spouse getting. Remember, you won't get it all, so try to make a realistic list.

Make a List of Everything You Owe

The debts obtained during the marriage will also be split up between the two spouses. Having a strong understanding of what you owe will give you a good picture of what you need to plan for once the divorce is finalized. Remember, the debts won't likely be split up 50/50 between the two parties. The courts will typically assign the greater portion of the debts to the individual who has a higher income and will be able to pay them more easily.

Start Tracking Schedules

Keeping track of your schedule, and the schedules of your children, may be very important. If there is a custody battle (which can hopefully be avoided), the courts tend to try to minimize the impact on the children. Tracking how much time you spend with them, what you do with them, and other details can help to make a stronger case for a parenting time schedule that you desire.

In addition to helping in case there is a custody issue, tracking schedules will help you in preparing for life once you and your spouse are living separately. This type of change has a huge impact on your life, so the more you can prepare for it, the better off you will be.

Build a Support System

Going through a divorce is very difficult, and not something you'll want to do on your own. Starting to build a support system of family, friends, and others who can help you when you need it will be very helpful. Try to find people who you can talk to about any issues you are having, people who can help you with scheduling conflicts, and anyone else you think may be able to help you through this experience.

Many people think that this sounds selfish because you are trying to build a group of people who can assist you when you need it. In reality, however, you will also be there to help them with things that they will need. Being about to lean on each other when going through difficult times is one of the most important parts of friends and family, so don't hesitate to start strengthening your support system now.

Document Severe Issues (if applicable)

If there are any type of serious issues that are prompting your divorce, make sure you log them. The most obvious example of this would be physical abuse. If your spouse is hurting you or your children, it is essential that you remove yourself from the situation right away. Notify the police, and get the help you need. Once safe, document as many details about the experience as possible. Any type of abuse or other unsavory behavior should be documented as it will be very important in court, should it come to that.

Make a Set of Goals

While divorce is certainly stressful, painful, and difficult, it can also be a little exciting at times. You'll be starting a whole new chapter in your life. Now is the time to start thinking about what types of goals you will have for the coming months and years. Make a list of goals, and how you plan on accomplishing them.

These goals can include things about your divorce, about your life after the divorce, or a combination of both. Thinking about the future like this is a great way to help get through the hard times since you'll be more likely to see 'the light at the end of the tunnel.'

Speak with an Attorney

Many people make the mistake of waiting to contact an attorney until they are ready to file for divorce immediately. The best time to speak to a divorce attorney is actually

much earlier on in the process. As soon as you are reasonably sure that you want to end your marriage, or if you suspect your spouse may be taking steps to end your marriage, schedule a consultation with an attorney. Your attorney will be able to go through your situation with you, and provide specific advice on how you can prepare for your divorce.

Another advantage of talking with an attorney early is that you will be able to make sure that you have a lawyer you get along with. If there is a personality conflict of any kind, you will still have time to find other representation. The advance notice will also give you some time to start putting together a financial retainer, and saving for other potential expenses that will come up along the way.

The attorneys at Klein & Babbitt, LLC are standing by to help assist you at all stages of a potential divorce. Contact us today to begin taking the proactive measures necessary to help ensure an efficient and effective divorce process as well as a positive outcome following your dissolution no matter the unique circumstances involved in your situation. Call us today in our Avon, CT office at 860-677-5885 or our Winsted, CT office at 860-379-3008. You can also reach out directly through our website to schedule a consultation. We would be honored to counsel you through this challenging time of your life and look forward to speaking with you.