



Divorce preparation *checklist*

Getting a divorce can be emotionally and financially draining. You can face drastic lifestyle changes, which can hit harder if you are unprepared. If you have reached a stage where you are thinking of divorce, this checklist of financial considerations is designed to help you better understand how to progress and plan your future according to your needs.

Gathering and assessing your finances – what information do you have?	Yes	No	N/A
Income and expenses for you and your spouse. Keep pay stubs and track spending			
Assets of the spouses (joint and separate) and their value, including trust funds and inheritances			
Business interests and valuation, if applicable			
Tax base of all assets			
Inventory of collections, artwork, antiques, and other valuables			
Awareness of the laws governing the division of property in your state			
Liabilities and debts of each spouse (e.g., mortgage, credit cards), including any loan documents			
Loans to family members/friends			
Employment agreements			
Employee benefits you and your spouse are entitled to			
Stock option statements			
Life, health, and disability insurance policies for you and your spouse			
Recent tax returns			
Financial records, including bank and investment statements			
Social Security statement			
Retirement plan statements			
Savings bonds/cash in safety deposit boxes			
Shared memberships and perks			
Other important documents, including real estate and vehicle titles			
Credit reports for you and your spouse			
Wills, trusts, and power of attorney forms			

Confirming child support and alimony – what have you accounted for in your plans?	Yes	No	N/A
Advice of a legal representative			
Physical and legal custody of children			
Tax consequences of alimony vs. child support payments			
Costs of medical expenses, education, and other incidentals			
Visitation parameters			
Ownership and division of marital home			

Planning ahead – what can you do ahead of starting your divorce?	Yes	No	N/A
Have 6 months’ worth of income saved for emergency expenses			
Have your own checking account and credit card accounts			
Open a PO box for redirecting your mail			
Create a new email account with new password to help protect your privacy			
Work with a financial professional who makes you feel comfortable and understands your unique needs			
Understand your options for how to divorce and the route that is right for your situation. Many people use divorce lawyers or a mediator (or a combination of both): <div><div>Divorce mediator<ul style="list-style-type: none">Independent, neutral third party who helps both spouses negotiateThrough mediation proceedings, facilitates a mutually acceptable agreement on the various issues and financial mattersSpouses control the divorce agreement and decisionsDivorce can take months to complete and be more cost-effectiveCan be private and confidential</div><div>Divorce lawyer<ul style="list-style-type: none">Represents one spouse and advocates for only themNegotiates with the other spouse’s lawyer to reach an agreement. If none can be reached, the divorce goes to family courtA judge ultimately rules on the outcomeDivorce can take years to complete and be costlyOn the public record</div></div>			
Have someone in your life who will be there to listen and provide emotional support if you need it			

Have questions?

Your financial professional can help you review this checklist and help with strategies for divorce-proofing your finances.

This material does not constitute tax, legal, or accounting advice, and neither John Hancock nor any of its agents, employees, or registered representatives are in the business of offering such advice. It was not intended or written for use, and cannot be used, by any taxpayer for the purpose of avoiding any IRS penalty. It was written to support the marketing of the transactions or topics it addresses. Anyone interested in these transactions or topics should seek advice based on his or her particular circumstances from independent professional advisors.

For more information, contact Manulife John Hancock Investments at 800-225-6020 or visit jhinvestments.com.



John Hancock Investment Management Distributors LLC, Member FINRA, SIPC, 200 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116, 800-225-6020, jhinvestments.com

Manulife, Manulife Investments, Stylized M Design, and Manulife Investments & Stylized M Design are trademarks of The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company, and John Hancock and the Stylized John Hancock Design are trademarks of John Hancock Life Insurance Company (U.S.A.). Each are used by it and by its affiliates under license.

NOT FDIC INSURED. MAY LOSE VALUE. NO BANK GUARANTEE. NOT INSURED BY ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY.