DIVORCE DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

TRIANGLE SMART DIVORCE®

Gathering documents is a very important step in the divorce process. If you are even thinking about separating, you should start gathering and copying the following documents as they pertain to your situation. These documents are crucial to your lawyer's evaluation of your case and can help you understand your options.

Income

- [ ] Your Federal and State tax returns for the last 5 years, including all attachments
- [ ] Business tax returns if you and/or your spouse own a business
- [ ] Proof of income for both spouses (W-2s and 1099s, pay stubs, bank statements with direct deposit, etc.)
- [ ] Statements showing the exercise and sale of stock options by you and/or your spouse
- [ ] Employment contracts for both spouses
- [ ] Benefit statements for both spouses, including cost of insurance for children

Estate Documents

- [ ] Life insurance policies for you, your spouse, and your children
- [ ] Wills for both spouses
- [ ] Living trusts for both spouses
- [ ] Trusts for both spouses and children
- [ ] Powers of attorney for both spouses

Property and Assets

- Current mortgage statements for all homes owned, including equity lines
- Property tax statements for all property owned
- Loan applications (including car loans, refinances, home improvement loans, etc.)
- Copies of deeds to all real estate properties
- Appraisals for any property owned, such as real estate, vehicles, jewelry, equipment, artwork, etc.
- List of major personal property (anything of significant value such as, jewelry, artwork, equipment, furnishings, high-end clothing, etc.)
- List of assets and debts each spouse owned prior to marriage. **It is important to distinguish separate property from marital property.**
- Current account statements for children, including college savings accounts (529s)

Savings & Investments

- Current bank statements for **all** banking accounts
- Current statements for **all** investments accounts
- Trust account statements
- Current statements for stock accounts, stock options, and RSUs
- Current 401(k) statements/retirement account statements (for example: IRA)
- Current pension statements

Other

- Current credit card statements for **all** credit cards
- Documentation of inheritance received by either you or your spouse
- Current statements for any other debts
- Monthly budgets
- Documentation of work-related childcare expenses
- Documentation of tutoring, therapy or other expenses for your children

We find that one spouse often gets angry when separation is discussed and starts hiding or destroying documents. It is **always** better to plan for a separation and start gathering these documents while you still can, and give them to your attorney for safe keeping.

CALL OR E-MAIL US WITH YOUR QUESTIONS TODAY!

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