

Questions to Think About

In the early stages of your divorce process, you'll need to ask yourself some questions in order to better understand your priorities, wants and needs. This will help you start taking the right steps to prepare for your life ahead.

Here are some of the questions you'll need to ask yourself:

- ✓ Who will stay in the home?
- ✓ Who will pay the mortgage (and other regular expenses such as gas, electricity and home repairs) after the divorce?
- ✓ How will you share the money in your joint bank accounts?
- ✓ How will you share assets such as stocks and bonds? How about the pension(s)?
- ✓ How will you split up big ticket items (i.e. car, boat, vacation home, appliances)?
- ✓ What about the joint credit cards? You should cancel or freeze them ASAP. However, if you have never had a credit card in your own name, you should apply for your own credit card before the joint cards are cancelled.
- ✓ How will you handle your current debts?
- ✓ Who will be responsible for the debts either of you incur while you're separated?
- ✓ Will you continue to file joint income tax returns? Are there taxes due or other problems pertaining to joint tax returns that will surface after the divorce and that will have to be addressed in the division of property and liabilities?
- ✓ Will one of you be paying spousal support to the other? How much? When will the payments be made? When will they end (e.g. when the child turns 21/leaves home/finishes college/university)?
- ✓ Will one or both of you be contributing to an education fund for the kids? How will the payments be made?
- ✓ How will you share responsibility for the care and raising of your children: joint, sole or shared custody? When will the children be staying with each of you?
- ✓ Who will pay for legal fees? Will each of you be responsible for retaining and paying your own lawyer?

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