

# THINGS TO CONSIDER CHECKLIST

BEFORE STARTING DIVORCE NEGOTIATIONS, think about and prioritize your issues. After reviewing the following list, you can prioritize what is most important to you.

- Who will stay in the house?
- Who will pay the mortgage (who pays other regular expenses such as utilities and home repairs) while you are separated?
- How will you share the money in your bank accounts?
- How will you divide assets such as investment portfolios and pension plans?
- How will you split big-ticket items such as home/cars/real estate, and so on?
- What do you do about joint credit cards and/or lines of credit? Consider freezing or canceling these joint accounts; however, if you do not have a credit card in your name – get one before the joint accounts are canceled.
- How will you deal with existing debts?
- Whose responsibility will it be for debts incurred during separation?
- Do you plan to file a joint income tax return? It is important to confirm there are no taxes due or other problems related to prior joint returns that may create problems after the divorce. Any problems need to be addressed in the division of property and liabilities.
- Will either of you be paying spousal support to the other? What will the amount be? Is this a lump sum or regular payments? When do the payments end? How spousal support payments are made could impact your tax status.
- Will either of you be paying child support to the other? How much and when will the payments be made. At what age will the child support end (ie. when the child turns 18, moves out, completes college, etc.)?
- Will both of you be contributing to college or just one? How will payments be made?
- The responsibility for care and raising your children will be sole or joint custody? How will you determine when the children will be staying with each one of you?
- Who pays for legal fees? Are each of you responsible for retaining and paying for your own lawyer?

*Work with a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst® (CDFA™) to increase your chances of reaching a divorce settlement that fully addresses your long-term financial needs, and secures your financial future.*