

Important Records to Compile before the Divorce

The most important step is to completely understand your financial situation. Second, you need to make sure copies of important records are in your control. You should obtain or consider:

- Birth certificates - You and the children
- Complete copies of tax returns for at least the last three years
- Copies of all deeds, stocks, bonds, brokerage statements, etc.
- Inventory all items in your safe deposit box
- Copies of all debt instruments - Loans, mortgages, leases, etc.
- Copies of wills, marriage certificate, trust agreements, marriage contracts, etc.
- Copies of insurance agreements - Life, auto, business, etc.
- Inventory of home and personal assets - Photos or video tapes will assist in establishing contents
- Copies of all monthly bank statements
- Copies of all retirement plans and statements
- Make sure all taxes are paid and up-to-date
- Personal auto - Make sure it is in good condition
- Family business - You need to be familiar with all aspects of the financial situation
- Do not sign blank documents
- Make sure you get a complete medical and dental check up. Determine if you and the children have health insurance coverage should you separate.
- Stash some cash. Have enough on hand or in traveler checks to get by on until your attorney can get the court to award temporary support.
- Copies of credit reports from the 3 major reporting companies.
- Contact all credit card companies, mortgage company and other debtors. Ask what type account you have. (Joint, individual, etc.)

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