WELLS FARGO Advisors

Divorce

A guide to financial considerations throughout the process

We hope this information will be useful in helping you get through the financial aspects of your divorce. But keep in mind it's just a guide—everyone moves through the process at a different pace and with a different level of involvement.

After making certain that children, if any, come through the divorce as unscathed as possible, most people have one important goal: to emerge from this difficult period with a financial agreement that will eventually lead to economic independence.

Wells Fargo Advisors: Your objective, neutral, and steadfast financial advisor

As we gathered the information in this guide, we kept these principles in mind:

- **Divorce can be messy.** It may not start at one place and move seamlessly to a conclusion. Agreements can be proposed, rescinded, reconsidered, argued, negotiated, renegotiated, and revised.
- **There may be surprises along the way.** You may discover you have more or less money than you expected, more or less debt than you realized. You may discover your state has certain laws that will be beneficial to you—and others that are not.
- **You're not going to receive everything you want.** The hope is that you'll come away with everything you need.
- **The more you know about your personal finances, the less fearful you'll be about the future.** Divorce sometimes forces you to take a crash course in managing your finances—but when it's explained in simple English and broken down point-by-point and step-by-step, you can master the basics.

Your financial advisor can act as a member or the coordinator of your team of professional advisors. He or she can assist you in gathering necessary financial documents, make suggestions to help lead you on a path to economic independence, and serve as a sounding board for you or your other advisors.

This guide is divided into four parts:

- **First steps**
- **Negotiating financial settlements**
- **Life as a newly divorced person**
- **Helpful resources**

Jump into it wherever you are in the divorce process—but when you have an opportunity, skim the previous pages. Because divorce never follows a straight line, you might gain some valuable insight and tips even if you're near resolution.

First Steps

An action plan—broken down into manageable steps

Step 1: Begin gathering financial documents.

You're not going to have to do any calculations now, but you'll need certain financial documents in the future to evaluate your assets and understand the financial position you're in.

The value of getting organized is immense. You're preparing yourself for the next stage. Begin the document collection now, simply because it may take you a couple of months to complete. You don't have to follow any particular order.

You may find the Wells Fargo Advisor's resource, "Your Financial Organizer for Divorce" quite helpful with this part of the financial documentation process.

Where do you look for these financial documents?

Start looking in the obvious places—where you and your spouse keep important papers in the house or a safe deposit box. Watch the mail for correspondence from insurance and annuity companies, credit card companies, banks, brokerage firms, and mutual fund companies. Go to your employer for work-related documents, such as statements pertaining to your pension, 401(k), or other retirement accounts. Ask your accountant, attorney, and financial advisors for copies of any financial information they have, such as prior tax returns or documents on ownership of property.

What documents should you look for?

The following is a general list of the financial documents you'll need. After you locate them, make copies of each, date them, and put them in a safe place:

Joint and/or separate bank and savings account statements. Pull monthly statements that arrive in the mail or print out online transaction reports. You need to identify the location of the accounts and approximate balances.

Life insurance policies. Look for policies individually purchased and those provided by your and your spouse's employers. At some point you'll need to determine the cash value of each policy by requesting a printout from the insurance company directly or from your investment firm or employer.

Mortgage statements. These statements provide your monthly payment, escrow amount, and balance you still owe on the property. If you have a home equity loan on your house, you'll need that documentation as well.

Recreational property financial records. Cottages, boats, motor homes, timeshares, etc. are all part of your asset base. Document if you own them outright. If you have an outstanding loan or mortgage on the property, you'll need to know the value and what you still owe. County Assessor records and recent statements from lending institutions should provide that detail.

Automobile, truck, and motorcycle titles. If you own a vehicle outright, make sure the title is in your name(s). If you have an outstanding loan, obtain a recent statement from the lending institution. Use the Blue Book to determine the current value. (Equity in the vehicle is based on the loan balance and current value.)

Antiques/collectibles/valuable jewelry/precious metals/important furniture. Make a list of valuable items you own and take pictures. You're not going to have these things assessed at this point; you just want a record of what you have and where the items are located.

Retirement accounts. Depending on your age and how long you've been married, you and your spouse may have a multitude of retirement accounts—and they may be scattered in a variety of investments with many companies. Retirement accounts may not send statements monthly (especially if they are inactive), but they do send them quarterly or semi-annually. Be on the lookout for information and updates on 401(k)s, IRAs, rollover IRAs, SEP-IRAs, and 403(b)s (the most common retirement accounts). If either of you work for a company with pension plans, you need to get a record of the plan and how much it has accumulated. Request these records from the company's human resources director. If it's your spouse's account(s) and his/her company won't honor your request, just make note that a plan exists. Also obtain records regarding any military pensions you or your spouse might have.

Annuity contracts. An annuity is a contract between the contract owner(s), in this case you and/or your spouse, and an insurance company. You purchased an annuity contract by making either a single payment or a series of payments. Once an annuity contract has been purchased, the insurance company agrees to make periodic payments to you, beginning either immediately or at some future date. Look for periodic statements and the prospectus showing detailed information pertaining to your contract.

Stock and mutual fund investment statements. You and your spouse may have invested jointly or separately in various stocks and mutual funds. In general, except for inherited property and property owned before marriage, all investments are marital funds to be divided by the divorce court. Gather any statements showing current balances and recent transactions for these investments.

Investment real estate income/losses. Investment real estate may or may not produce income during the year. (In some cases, it might even generate a loss.) You still need to document what you and your spouse own, including details on how much the investment earns or loses annually and how much you owe on it. Check the County Assessor records for estimates of current market value.

Business interests. The same financial record-keeping vigilance needs to be given to a business that either of you owns or has invested in. Gather any documents that provide pertinent financial details on the business.

Trust funds. While trust funds may be excluded from divorce negotiations, they'll likely be discussed. Locate copies of the trust documents, or if they're not in your possession, just note they exist.

Loan agreements. Often personal loans are overlooked in divorce negotiations, but they can represent a substantial asset (assuming they're collectable). Locate agreements or document outstanding loans made by you or your spouse.

Outstanding debt paperwork. You or your spouse may have joint or separate credit card or margin debt; student, personal or auto loans; lines of credit or tax liability. Make a list of all the money owed (either individually or jointly); attach the list to any documentation of the debts.

Your last two years' tax returns. You'll need these returns to be clear about income, adjustments, deductions, suspended passive losses, and capital loss carry forwards. If you're the spouse who hasn't been actively involved in the family investing, the tax returns can help you track down your holdings (interest, dividends, IRA deductions, and pension distributions have been reported on them).

Step 2: Learn how the divorce laws of your state apply to your unique situation.

The best way to become familiar with the laws in your state is to speak with an attorney who practices this type of law. He or she will be able to advise you and give you a better understanding of how the laws relating to alimony, child support, and division of property pertain to your situation.

You can expect your attorney to:

- Talk with you about the current laws and procedures governing divorce in your state.
- Keep on top of your case and protect you from violations—of interim court orders—that may happen intentionally or unintentionally.
- Explain and clarify anything you don't understand in the separation or divorce process.
- Be judicious and rational, even when you might be emotional.
- Provide you with settlement options and explaining the pros and cons of each choice.
- Be responsive to your need to discuss the case, as well as keeping you informed about what's next and how long you can expect the next stage to take.
- Represent you and the priorities you have laid out as important in settlement negotiations, mediation, or in court.
- Provide an initial evaluation of your case and how much it might cost—and then send you periodic fee statements of billing-to-date.

You should not expect your attorney to:

- Become involved with your personal problems.
- Help compile the necessary documents and records for divorce negotiations.
- Disrespect your feelings or lack of knowledge pertaining to the divorce process.
- Disregard your communication efforts (not taking phone calls or responding to emails).

- Pressure you to accept a settlement you're uncomfortable with.
- Provide guidance on how to invest a settlement.

In addition to an attorney, you might want to hire other professionals to be part of your team during the divorce negotiations: a financial advisor, to address monetary and investment issues; an accountant, to advise about tax issues; and/or a therapist, to help you through the emotional stress of the divorce. Each will bring a different perspective to the divorce process—it's your job to weigh how important each professional's advice is in a particular instance.

Step 3: Protect your credit rating.

If you and your spouse share credit accounts, you also share the debt—no matter who does the buying. As long as these accounts are open, you are responsible for paying the bills.

That's why it's important to check your credit rating. Request a copy of your credit report (it might be listed under your name and your spouse's). You may request one free copy per year at annualcreditreport.com. Glance over it to make certain the information is correct. Next, check to see if you (and/or your spouse) are delinquent or in arrears on any account. If you notice any unusual or unexplained activity on the report, talk with your spouse and tell your lawyer.

Step 4: Search for assets.

As you go through your credit card charges, highlight any questionable items. Do the same with bank statements—are there any unexplained withdrawals or deposits? And brokerage statements—were there any deposits or withdrawals you didn't know about?

Look for other assets you may have forgotten about: additional real estate holdings, limited partnerships and long-held stocks, mutual funds, or bonds.

Next, consider work-related assets: bonuses, perks, tips, commissions, royalties, and expense reimbursements that don't show up easily or at all on tax returns. A recent paystub will list some of these items. Make note of them. Do you or your spouse have any deferred compensation, stock options, uncollected bonuses or commissions, or accumulated vacation pay? All this needs to be ferreted out if you are to get a complete picture of your finances.

If you sell stock, close bank accounts, or take substantial money from a joint account to maintain the family lifestyle, make sure you document the transaction(s), including the date and what the funds were used for.

Step 5: Look at your expenses for the past year.

Most people have a general idea of what they spend annually, but now you're going to have to take a closer look at the numbers. Write down what you've spent on:

- **Housing** (mortgage payments, repairs, maintenance, lawn service, extermination, and snow-removal services)
- **Major purchases** (furniture, autos, art, antiques, appliances, and other big-ticket items)

- **Food** (groceries and school and work lunches)
- **Clothing** (new purchases for you and your family members, dry cleaning costs, sporting equipment, and uniforms)
- **Transportation** (all costs associated with cars and fares for taxis, buses, trains, planes, and any other commuting expenses)
- **Entertainment** (meals out, movie tickets and rental fees, theater tickets, country club or sports club dues, hobbies, and recreation fees and costs)
- **Vacations** (costs associated with day jaunts as well as long weekends and big trips)
- **Medical and dental** (insurance premiums, deductibles, co-pays, prescription and nonprescription drugs, diagnostic tests, and out-of-pocket expenses)
- **School/education** (tuition, college living expenses, books, supplies, religious instruction, tutoring, uniforms, before-school/after-school care, and transportation)
- **Gifts and charitable contributions** (wedding, birthday and holiday gifts; deductible contributions to religious, social service, cultural, community, educational institutions, and disaster relief efforts)
- **Insurance premiums** (life, auto, homeowner's or tenant's, disability, and travel)
- **Professional fees** (child or parental support, professional memberships or fees, accounting, legal, brokerage or financial advisor fees)
- **Taxes** (federal, state, and city income taxes and property taxes)
- **Miscellaneous** (child or parental support; personal expenses such as hair stylists, toiletries, pocket money, allowances, subscriptions, cable, phones, and pet care)

Step 6: Review all your accounts—individual and joint.

If you don't already have a credit card under your own name, now is the time to consider applying for one or two. Once you get the credit card, though, be prudent. This is not the time for luxury spending.

Once you and your spouse know that you're going to separate, check with your attorney to find out whether you should notify financial institutions of your intentions. Sometimes that action will be recommended to prevent assets from being moved around in a way that will unfairly benefit one spouse. For example, you don't want your spouse to empty out the money from a joint account and put it into a separate account. Nor do you want your spouse to go on a shopping spree and run up an enormous bill for personal items you'll be responsible for. Your attorney will suggest ways to prevent transfer problems, such as requesting two signatures be required before transactions are made. Your lawyer will also advise you whether to close some joint accounts or leave accounts open temporarily to pay for household expenses until the terms of a settlement are decided upon.

Step 7: Update your resume.

If you don't have a resume, now is the time to create one. As a result of the divorce, you may find you will have to go back to work or find a way to increase your earnings. If you have never been in the workplace or haven't worked for a while, you may find creating a resume can be challenging—especially if you think of it in terms of a traditional resume of employment information and history. But don't be discouraged. More creative resume approaches highlighting skill sets (such as organizational abilities, advocacy skills, and marketing acumen) used in volunteer activities and everyday life can be effective when trying to persuade an employer to hire you.

If you already have a resume, update it. When the time seems right and you're ready to pursue a suitable job opportunity, you want to be ready to move.

Work considerations

This may not be a good time to think of quitting your job. You'll need to work to assure an income for you and your family. And as tempting as it may sound to tackle something more challenging and more remunerative, you may want to think twice about changing companies or accepting a promotion when you're in the throes of a divorce. Change is difficult for most people, and you're already in the midst of a big one. Unless you're confident that you can handle it, it might be better to postpone the step-up for a few months if possible.

Negotiating financial settlements

How much will you need—now and later?

Separating assets (and liabilities) is vastly more difficult than joining them. If you've been married for any length of time, it's harder still—and more expensive. Unless assets are bountiful, divorce will have an impact on your lifestyle and standard of living—at least for a while. After all, the same income and assets that supported one household will now have to support two.

What's really important?

Begin negotiations by thinking about the nonmonetary things that are really meaningful to you. Do you want the children to stay in the same school? Do you want to keep the dog? Do you long to be with the children on Thanksgiving or other holidays? Do you want them to continue their religious education? Do you want to switch careers? Are you eager to move to a different part of the country?

Once you have your nonfinancial priorities established, you're ready to sit down at the bargaining table. It is the nature of give-and-take negotiations—including divorce negotiations—that neither party will wind up with all that he or she wants. The objective is to wind up with your top non-financial priorities and most of your financial assets.

Think short-term

To determine how much money you really need, you'll have to do some estimating.

You have to figure out what expenses might be next year for you as a single person (perhaps a single person with children). They'll be different from what they were for you as a married person. You will have similar household expenses, either in the place you're living now or in a new home. Your child-care expenses may increase because you may have to rely on more paid help. You might not benefit from the lower car insurance premiums you get when two or more cars are insured at the same address, or the tax benefits of filing jointly. You may have to pay for things that your spouse did around the house for free.

Next there's the income side. If you had two incomes, you won't any more. Even if you receive spousal support and/or child support, that amount won't equal a second income. And if there was only one income, chances are the spouse who wasn't working before will be forced to do so now if he or she wants to maintain some semblance of the "before" lifestyle.

Financial realities are often in conflict with our emotional attachment to things—especially homes. For people who didn't want the divorce to start with, the only control they might think they have over their lives is to stay in their present home. It may not be fair to have to leave it, and it may not be right, but it may be a financial reality that has to be faced—especially if a person doesn't have the income to maintain it. Coming to terms with such realities can be emotionally wrenching.

Think beyond today

Certainly what you're going to need in the next year is an important consideration when carving out a financial settlement. But it's dangerous to get stuck in short-term thinking. Unfortunately, if you aren't thinking about what life might be like five or ten years from now, you may be in for some unpleasant surprises—such as facing hefty maintenance costs on property that's aging, paying a large capital gains tax when selling an asset in a few years, or child-support payments that are either too paltry for growing children's needs or too onerous for the spouse providing them.

Before you tackle this section, it would be helpful to have copies of the financial documents listed earlier in this guide for reference. The following pieces of financial information have to be assessed during your negotiations:

- **Income of each spouse.** Support, child and spousal, is often calculated on the income and earning capacity of each partner.
- **Your net worth.** You need to determine your net worth as a couple and individually. If assets have to be evaluated or appraised (such as a home, a fine painting, or an expensive collection), you'll need to agree on how to do that and whom you will hire to determine the valuation.
- **Securities.** What stocks, bonds, and mutual funds do you own—jointly and individually? How should they be divided or used in the negotiations? Does selling them make sense at this point?
- **Real estate.** Your home and any other real property you own are part of your net worth as a couple. Will one of you trade it for another asset? Will you agree to sell it and divide the proceeds? Will one of you buy out the other and continue living there?

- **Retirement benefits.** Don't forget or minimize them when negotiating, because they're essential to your future well-being. Are you going to split the retirement plans or trade them for another asset?

- **Annuity contracts.** With most annuity contracts, the annuitant cannot be changed but the owner may be (however there may be tax implications). We recommend that you review your contract with your financial advisor and tax professional to fully understand the implications of the distribution of this benefit with the change in your marital situation.

- **Military benefits.** You don't realize how many there are until they're no longer available. Some that may be lost in the divorce are housing and subsistence allowances, medical and dental insurance, and child care on military installations.

- **Military pensions.** Many, many rules govern military pensions and divorce, so it's important for active or retired military people, their spouses, and their advisors to be familiar with the Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act.

- **Alimony or spousal support.** Negotiating alimony or spousal support is complicated. Many factors will be taken into consideration. Your attorney will be able to help you figure out what is reasonable.

- **Child support.** Raising children is costly and takes up a considerable amount of the family income. Parents are generally both expected to contribute to the expenses of their children, but one parent may be required to pay their expected contribution to the other parent in the form of child support. Child support is not included in the taxable income of the parent receiving it, and it's not tax-deductible to the one who pays it.

- **Debt.** Unfortunately, whatever joint debt you and your spouse accumulated during marriage remains joint—even if you weren't responsible for it or your spouse was a reckless spender. This is another item that can be negotiated, but remember that after the divorce, you will still be responsible for any debt that is in both names, even if the court orders your spouse to pay it.

- **Taxes.** They will play into your divorce settlement decisions. In most cases, lump-sum settlements are not considered taxable income to the recipient. However, sale of property to facilitate the settlement is a taxable event. So the question must be asked: What's the settlement worth after the future tax is taken into consideration? Another consideration is the tax treatment of alimony. For divorce agreements entered into after December 31, 2018, alimony will no longer be deductible by the payer and will not be considered taxable income to the recipient.

- **Social Security.** In order to receive Social Security benefits based on your ex-spouse's earnings, you must have been married at least 10 years and not have remarried. You're eligible when you both reach age 62, if certain requirements are met. Your benefit is generally based on half of your ex-spouse's full retirement age benefit. You can, of course, receive benefits based on your own earnings record, if they are higher—but you're not entitled to both. If you remarry, you generally cannot collect benefits on your former spouse's record unless your later marriage ends, whether by death, divorce, or annulment. Talk with a financial advisor about the best time to start Social Security benefits.

- **Insurance.** You will probably want to change the beneficiary on your life insurance policies. If you have children, you might need additional life insurance naming them as beneficiaries; if you don't have any dependents, you might choose to drop your life insurance. You may also request that your spouse maintain a life insurance policy for your benefit as a way to provide additional resources in place of alimony that will end upon your spouse's death.
- **Health and medical coverage.** This is especially important at this point, and both spouses will have to make arrangements for it. It becomes crucial if you are the one being dropped from your spouse's policy. Check with your or your spouse's employer for options for continuing coverage upon divorce.
- **Inflation.** The effect of inflation is powerful. Even at a relatively low long-term average of approximately 3% a year, inflation will reduce your purchasing power over time. At that rate, in 10 years, $1,000 will buy just $744 of what it could buy today. Keep it in mind.

When making financial decisions: what to consider

Remember those non-financial goals that you prioritized before beginning negotiations? Well, what do you absolutely need to accomplish those that are the most important to you? Time? A substantial sum of money? A steady income?

Here are some of the most important financial questions to be asking yourself:

- **What are the maintenance costs associated with keeping certain valuable assets?** Can you pay for required repairs and maintenance for a vacation home, a country-club membership, or a boat, for example? Or would it be better for you to swap one of those for an asset that doesn't require upkeep, such as a stock portfolio or an IRA?
- **What is an asset's potential appreciation value?** A bond, for example, normally will provide a steady income stream, but will mature at face value—no more, no less. A stock portfolio worth the same amount as a bond portfolio at the time of settlement will have different characteristics to consider—dividend yield, historic volatility, embedded gains/losses. Compare other assets, such as your home vs. your investment real estate, or your share in the family business vs. your retirement funds. How do you and your advisors think they'll fare in the years ahead?
- **What are the tax implications of selling or transferring assets?** What if you agree to trade assets and you take the $500,000 house while your spouse takes the $500,000 stock portfolio? They might generate vastly different tax results when they are sold, even if they wind up of equal value. For example, the house may or may not be subject to capital gains taxes because individuals who have owned and lived in a property as their primary residence for two out of the last five years are allowed up to $250,000 (married couples up to $500,000) in tax-free capital gains when they sell their home. There are lots of issues surrounding taxes, such as the tax bracket the spouse will be in at the time of the sale and what the asset might be worth after future taxes are taken into consideration. What's your accountant's advice?

- **How do you think child support should be dealt with as the children get older and more expensive to raise?** Should special provisions for future alimony and support payments be added? Do you want to include in the agreement an automatic cost-of-living increase or a provision that reviews your spouse's income in a few years to make certain alimony and support payments are approximately the same percentage of income they were at the time the initial agreement was made? (Keep in mind, of course, that the amount the recipient gets might be decreased as well as increased.)
- **What happens if alimony and/or child support are the only or main sources of income for one spouse?** Will the supported spouse be able to get a mortgage if he or she wants to buy a residence? And what if the supporting spouse dies? How will obligations be covered? Will there be enough life insurance?

Keep in mind that negotiation works best when both of you feel you've won a little. Maintaining your composure, compromising on non-essential points, and moving in the direction of financial "settlement" (as much as possible) not only help move negotiations along, but also lay the groundwork for a working relationship in the future. This is important if you have children or joint interests, as you'll probably have many issues to deal with after the divorce has been finalized.

Business and divorce

Complications abound when couples own a business together or most of their assets are tied up in a family or closely-held business. In fact, the acrimony of a divorce can easily seep into the business—unsettling employees, disturbing operations, and upending customer relations. Of course, it's much easier if business strategies, such as buy-sell agreements, equity ownership divisions, and exit strategies, are developed before a divorce; they provide ballast for the emotional swings of the adversarial process.

Unfortunately, many small businesses, never get around to putting these safeguards in place. If that's the situation you're in, keep in mind the business is your shared asset. It may be worthwhile to hire a business consultant experienced with this kind of situation, or bring in another attorney who specializes in business negotiations.

Life as a newly divorced person

Taking stock of—and investing in—a new life

As a married person, you had to take into consideration not only your own money-management style, but also your spouse's. Perhaps you had to temper your overspending, play the miser to balance your spouse's extravagances, check with your spouse every time you spent money, or discuss the reasons behind a major purchase. Whether in concert or in conflict, you had another adult in the money management picture.

That's not so now. So before plunging into the single life, it's important to take a few moments to rediscover your own money-management style. Your financial advisor can help you address your strengths and weaknesses so that you can understand what you need to address.

How Wells Fargo Advisors can help

At the beginning of the process, our financial advisors can:

- Provide you with a printout of all the assets you have at the firm—with purchase dates and prices, present market values, and the interest/dividend income the assets generate.
- Explain anything you don't understand on your statements, plus provide investment strategies designed to save on taxes.
- Raise financial issues for you to think about so that you won't be surprised by them later in the divorce process.
- Work with and coordinate the efforts of your team of advisors.

When you're in the midst of negotiations, he or she can:

- Provide you with financial information, suggestions, and expertise.
- Ask you the questions you might not be able to ask yourself, such as "If your ex loses his/her job, are you still okay with not working?"
- Model a way of looking at financial information unemotionally.
- Serve as a sounding board for settlement suggestions.

When you're launching life as a newly single person, he or she can help you:

- Consolidate your holdings.
- Change beneficiary designations on your insurance and retirement plans.
- Develop a portfolio plan to help you move forward.
- Develop an investment strategy that will help meet your cash-flow needs.
- Readjust and rethink your finances at key junctures in your life.

Helpful Resources

Useful websites

Please note that we are not responsible for the information contained on the listed websites. Their addresses are provided to you for information purposes only.

General sites on divorce

- divorcemagazine.com—Launched in 1996, this online magazine offers easy-to-read articles with helpful advice—from legal to financial, emotional to physical, parenting to children's issues.

You can count on us

Divorce is hard enough without having to worry about how it will affect the financial security you've worked so hard to build. Make sure you understand the issues pertaining to your situation. Although this information is not comprehensive, a review of it combined with a discussion with your financial advisor, tax advisor, and attorney can help you understand your situation and options.

Your financial advisor will work closely with your attorney and tax advisor throughout the proceedings to help ensure your rights and investments are protected. Your financial advisor may assist with transferring assets and retirement plans, or providing asset values and cost basis information. These conversations also could uncover additional concerns or lead to opportunities to help you achieve your long-term financial and life goals.

- divorcesource.com—Information from divorce laws by state to custody handbooks for mothers and fathers to property division. It also includes a public records search feature.
- divorceinfo.com—Advice on numerous topics relating to divorce, including specific tax information on everything from tax filing status to excess alimony rules.

Professional assistance sites

- aaml.org—The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers has articles and news about divorce and lists its members by state and name.
- collaborativepractice.com—Offers resources and links to state and local organizations of collaborative professionals.

Government assistance sites

- ssa.gov—Specific questions about Social Security and divorce are answered here, but the site deals mainly with retirement, survivor, and disability benefits.
- irs.gov—Use keyword "Divorce" for publications relating to divorce.

Books and pamphlets

- "Divorce and Money: How to Make the Best Financial Decisions During Divorce" by Violet Woodhouse, Attorney CFLS, and Lina Guillen, Attorney (2016, Nolo Press, 12th edition). A comprehensive overview and a good reference book to have on hand.
- "Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In" by Roger Fisher, William Ury and Bruce Patton (Penguin Books, 2015). Advice for the layperson on how to negotiate successfully without caving in.
- IRS Publication 504 "Divorce or Separated Individuals". Tax information for divorced individuals.
- "What Color Is Your Parachute? 2018: A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career Changers" by Richard N. Bolles (Ten Speed Press, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, New York). A popular manual that's basically a course of study into yourself—what you like to do and what you're good at—and how to translate that into a rewarding work experience.