

# How to Prepare for and Fund Your Divorce

## Before you and your spouse file for divorce:

Take an inventory of your finances.

Make a copy of your current financial account statements.

Gather your online login information in one easy-to-find location to easily access your financial accounts (Bank accounts, investment accounts, and credit card accounts).

Take inventory of personal items you would like to keep.

If it is safe, discuss what you and your spouse envision custody to look like post-separation. Understand that California courts want to see equal parenting time as much as possible.

Consult with several family law attorneys to find the attorney that is the right fit for you.

Take out a credit card with a credit limit of at least \$10,000.00 so that you have funds readily available to start your divorce.

Seek the assistance of an individual therapist.

If you and your spouse are discussing separation, then it may benefit you both to seek the assistance of a couple's counselor who can assist you both with "uncoupling" in a peaceful way.

Gather a team of friends and family that will be able to emotionally support you throughout the divorce process.

## After you file for divorce:

Prepared for the costs of maintaining two households. The cost of maintaining two households can be a shock to many recently separated couples.

If you are the higher earning party, be prepared to pay some support to the other party.

Keep things peaceful with your spouse. During a divorce emotions are high. Whatever the reason for the divorce, both parties can feel upset, and angry. It is important to keep your emotions in check during this process. While you do not have to be friends with your ex, if you have children together, you will be tied to them for a very long time. It is better for all parties to be cordial and peaceful in all aspects