



## I Got Divorced, What Do I Do Next?

*This guide provides general post-divorce recommendations for clients. It is intended for informational purposes only and does not replace legal advice. Please consult your attorney with any questions regarding your specific case.*

### **1. Review Your Final Judgment and Court Orders**

- Carefully read the Final Judgment of Divorce, the Stipulation of Settlement (when applicable), and any final court orders.
- Note all obligations, deadlines, and responsibilities (e.g., support payments, property transfers, refinancing requirements, parenting schedules).
- Calendar important dates to ensure compliance.
- Contact your attorney if anything is unclear.

### **2. Follow All Court-Ordered Obligations**

- Child support/alimony: Begin payments as required and maintain records.
- Parenting time: Follow the schedule precisely unless formally modified.
- Property division: Complete transfers of assets, titles, or belongings as ordered.
- Insurance requirements: Update or maintain life/health insurance as specified.

Failure to follow these obligations can result in enforcement actions, so staying in compliance is essential.

### **3. Notify Relevant Institutions of Your Divorce**

After a divorce is finalized, certain entities may need to be informed to update your legal and financial records.

#### Government Agencies

- Social Security Administration (if you changed your name).
- Department of Motor Vehicles (update your driver's license and vehicle registration).
- Passport Office (U.S. Department of State) if you need an updated passport.
- Tax authorities (e.g., IRS/state tax agency) to adjust filing status.

### Employers & Employment-Related Accounts

- Human Resources department (update marital status, tax forms, and beneficiaries).
- Employer-sponsored retirement plans or pensions (update beneficiaries).

### Financial Institutions

- Banks and credit unions
- Credit card companies
- Mortgage lenders
- Investment and brokerage accounts
- Insurance companies (auto, home, life, health)

### Other Accounts

- Utilities and service providers (cable, internet, phone)
- Memberships and subscriptions
- School or daycare providers (for emergency contact updates)
- Medical providers (update insurance and emergency contacts)

## **4. Name Change (If Applicable)**

If you chose to resume a prior name:

- Use the court order authorizing your name change.
- Update your name first with the Social Security Administration.
- Then update your driver's license, passport, bank accounts, employer records, insurance policies, and any other accounts.

## **5. Update Your Estate Planning Documents**

A divorce does not automatically update your estate documents. Consider reviewing:

- Will or trust.
- Power of attorney
- Healthcare directive/living will
- Beneficiary designations on life insurance, retirement accounts, and financial accounts.

**Consult an estate planning attorney if needed.**

## **6. Co-Parenting and Communication (If Applicable)**

- Follow the parenting plan and maintain respectful communication.
- Use approved communication tools or apps if required.
- Keep records of important communications or exchanges.
- Make decisions in the best interest of the children and avoid conflict in front of them.

## **7. Health, Insurance, and Benefits**

- If you previously used your spouse's health insurance, arrange new coverage.
- Update beneficiaries on insurance and retirement accounts.
- Review eligibility for COBRA (if applicable).

## **8. When to Contact Your Attorney**

Reach out to your attorney if:

- You have questions about your obligations.
- Your ex-spouse is not following the court order.
- You want to modify child support, alimony, or parenting time.
- You receive any new court papers or legal notices.