



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.