

Considering a Divorce?

Going through a divorce can be very stressful.
Here are four things to think about before filing for divorce.
Thinking through these things now can save you time and worry later.

1

Safety first.

- Create a safety plan for yourself and your children.
- You can call 211 to get information about support services in your area.

2

Gather paperwork and records about family finances - especially the assets and debts that may need to be dealt with in the divorce.

- tax returns
- retirement account, credit card, and bank statements
- car titles, deeds, and other ownership records

Also, **take pictures** of your home and any valuable assets.
Bottom line: you want to go into a divorce knowing what property may be involved.



3

Especially if you have children with your spouse, start planning about where you will live and how you will support yourself.

Often, one parent must leave the marital home during a divorce.
Obstacles to independence may include:

- employment and income
- childcare
- affordable housing

Unfortunately, subsidized housing and childcare typically have long waiting lists.

4

Be smart about social media and other communications.

While your case is pending, your life and the things you say can be looked at in detail by a judge—even text messages to close friends.

- Consider making your social media profiles private and cutting down on posts.
- Use the “Grandma Rule.”

Would you want your grandma to read this?