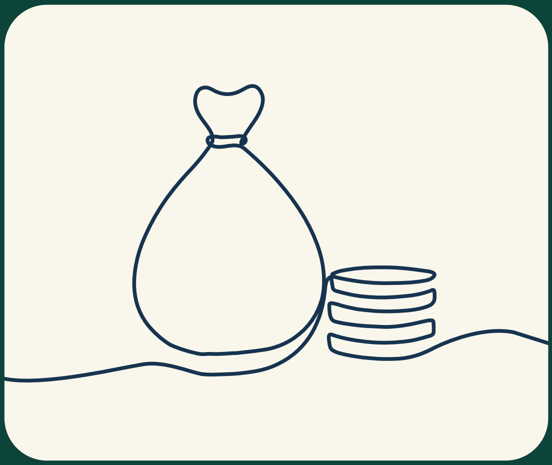
my next chapter

Educate Yourself

Your Divorce Agreement: Updated Finance Prep Checklist



Before You Start

- Create a separate email + secure cloud folder (Drive/OneDrive/iCloud).
- Save PDFs of statements as they come in (no giant download day).

TIER 1 – PRIORITY (Start Here)

These five items get you ~75% of the way there.

1. Credit Reports (Both Parties, If Possible)

    - Pull from annualcreditreport.com (all 3 bureaus).
    - See all open credit cards, loans, and joint accounts.

2. Retirement & Workplace Plans

    - Latest statements for:
        - 401(k), 403(b), 457, TSP, pensions
        - Traditional & Roth IRAs
    - Note balances and whether they're pre-tax or Roth.

3. Tax Returns & Income Proof

    - 3 years of tax returns (with W-2s/1099s and all schedules).
    - Most recent pay stub(s) for each spouse (shows year-to-date income and benefits).

4. Bank & Credit Card Statements

    - 3 recent statements for all checking and savings accounts (joint and individual).
    - 3 recent statements for all credit cards with balances.

5. Real Estate & Mortgage
    - Latest mortgage / HELOC / 2nd mortgage statements.
    - Most recent property tax bill and homeowners insurance declarations.

TIER 2 – OTHER MUST-HAVES

Add these as you move toward mediation, negotiation, or filing.

6. Investments, Crypto, and Payment Apps
    - Recent/annual statements for brokerage accounts, crypto, PayPal, Venmo, CashApp, etc.
7. Other Income Sources
    - Executive pay: RSUs, stock options, ESPP, deferred comp plan docs.
    - Rental income: tax schedules and any rental summaries.
    - 1099s for freelance / side-gig income.
8. Debts & Loans
    - Statements for student loans, auto loans/leases, personal loans, HELOCs, timeshares.
9. Insurance & Annuities
    - Life insurance (term, whole, universal) and any cash-value details.
    - Annuities and insurance-wrapped retirement products.
    - Group life insurance summaries from work.
10. Business Ownership
    - P&Ls and balance sheets (3 years), business tax returns, any prior valuations.
11. Vehicles
    - Make, model, year, mileage, and loan/lease statements (if any).
12. Existing Court / Legal Financial Docs
    - Any financial affidavits or temporary support / bill-pay orders.

TIER 3 – NICE-TO-HAVES

Helpful for planning and big-picture decisions, but not required on day one.

13. Draft Post-Divorce Budget
    - Use a worksheet to estimate post-divorce monthly expenses and income.
14. “What You Own / What You Owe” Summary
    - One sheet listing all assets and debts with approximate values/balances.
15. Social Security Estimates (If 50+ or Long Marriage)
    - Download benefit estimates for each spouse from SSA.gov.
16. Fringe Benefits & Extras
    - Health insurance details, HSAs/FSAs, travel points, vacation clubs, timeshares.
17. Question & “Unknowns” List
    - Running list of accounts you suspect exist, questions for pros, and what you might be willing to trade (e.g., more retirement vs. less home equity).