

SEPARATION CHECKLIST: FIRST STEPS



Separation and divorce can be overwhelming, and understandably you will have a lot on your mind. Taking a logical and organised approach to divorce will help minimise the stress and financial impact, as will being prepared for your Lawyer.

We've prepared this checklist of 'must do' items when you first separate from your partner. This list of simple tasks will try to ensure that you are protected and neither party has an unfair advantage that could cost you in the long run.

DIGITAL ASSETS

When you're separating, it's important that you retain your privacy. You'll need to change your passwords to all of your online accounts. Most importantly:

- Email
- Social Media Accounts
- Online Banking

DOCUMENTATION

You will save a lot of time and money by gathering information yourself where you can rather than having your Lawyers collecting documents. When you have collected the documents, take them to a safe place or give them to a friend - don't leave them at home.

- Passports (yours and your children's)
- Bank / Credit Card / Super Statements
- Tax Returns
- Marriage Certificate
- Pay Slips
- Property Titles (if they are not at the bank)
- Company/Business Documents

YOUR HOME

You need to secure your home in two ways for both piece of mind and as an asset. Lodging a caveat against the property will ensure that your partner can't borrow against the property, transfer ownership, give it away, or take other securities against it. Check with your Lawyer if they can assist you with a caveat.

- Change the Locks
- Lodge a caveat against the property

FINANCES & WILLS

Sometimes, an automatic reaction to separation is for one of the parties to draw-down against the mortgage, or spend up big on one of the credit cards. You should contact the bank, explain that you've separated and what you don't want to happen to your accounts. It's also important at this time to make sure your Will is updated to reflect your circumstances and you update the beneficiary of any policies such as superannuation or life insurance .

- Freezing Mortgage Balances
- Freezing Draw-Down Facilities
- Freezing Some Credit Cards
- Update Your Will
- Update Beneficiaries
For Superannuation & Life Insurance

WHERE TO NEXT?

Contact Perdriau Family Lawyers obligation free today:

p. 02 4343 1773 e. info@perdriaufamilylawyers.com.au www.perdriaufamilylawyers.com.au

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