

When preparing to file for dissolution, use these tips to plan:

1. Make copies of all financial documents. This will include prior tax returns, paycheck stubs, checking and savings account statement, retirement plans, portfolios.
2. Make copies of all personal documents. This will include social security cards, health insurance cards, birth certificates, marriage records, prior divorce filings.
3. Review the finances available to maintain two households. Understand that living separately is generally more expensive than living together. In addition to a second set of monthly utility and mortgage payments, the second residence may also require a significant initial outlay of cash for security or utility deposits.
4. Have a safety plan. If you are involved in a relationship that involves physical or emotional abuse, contact community resources to assist you in leaving the situation. Be knowledgeable about safe places for you to stay during the pendency of the proceedings.