

Divorce: Advisor Checklist

Divorce is rarely just a financial event. It's emotional, complex, and often rushed. As the advisor, your role is to slow things down, bring clarity to what's changing, and help your client make thoughtful decisions instead of reactive ones. What you convey most in this moment is stability and helping them feel grounded in what they can control while protecting their long-term future.

What to Say:

- *"There's a lot happening right now. We don't need to figure everything out at once."*
- *"Let's focus on what we know today and what needs your attention first."*
- *"My role is to help you make decisions you'll feel good about long-term, not just get through this moment."*

1. Establish the Full Financial Picture

- Inventory all assets (joint & individual)
- Identify all liabilities
- Review income sources
- Collect tax returns (last 2-3 years)

2. Understand the Settlement Structure

- Asset division details
- Retirement / QDRO considerations
- Tax implications of division
- Alimony/child support terms

3. Immediate Financial Stability

- Open individual accounts
- Build post-divorce budget
- Assess cash flow gaps
- Review credit profile

4. Update Key Documents

- Beneficiaries
- Insurance policies
- Estate documents

5. Long-Term Planning Reset

- Retirement projections
- Insurance needs
- Savings strategy

Divorce is one of the most complex financial transitions a client will face. Use this checklist to bring structure, clarity, and thoughtful guidance to decisions that will shape their next chapter.