

## POST DIVORCE CHECKLIST

- Keep your gold seal certified copy of the divorce judgment in a safe place, preferably a fireproof box or safe deposit box.
- If you have obtained permission to resume your birth name, bring the certified copy of your divorce judgment to your local Social Security office and to the Division of Motor Vehicles to obtain a new Social Security card and new driver's license in your birth name. Change your name on bank accounts and credit cards.
- Request a reissued passport in your maiden name, if your passport was issued in your married name and you have resumed use of your maiden name.
- Follow up on the transfer of any real property owned by you and your spouse, including the execution and recording of an appropriate deed.
- Follow up with your spouse on division of any assets that were to be divided and distributed between you and your spouse as of the date of your divorce, for example, bank accounts or securities.
- Also, follow up on division of any personal property not yet divided between you. If your spouse is supposed to remove items from your residence, schedule a date and time for the removal or get authority to discard the items.
- Close any joint credit card accounts, or convert them to individual accounts for you or your spouse.
- Notify credit card companies in writing that you are divorced and your spouse no longer has authority to use cards issued in your name.
- If you will receive support through the NJ Family Support Payment Center, follow up to make sure that Probation has opened an account for you. Obtain the number of your account, and the name of the caseworker assigned to your case. If

Probation needs more information about you or your spouse, assist your attorney in providing this information (for example, current employment, Social Security numbers). Notify your attorney if you do not receive support as ordered or agreed.

- If you are paying support, whether through the NJ Family Support Payment Center or directly to your spouse, keep your own records of support payments, so that you can substantiate any errors in your account.
- Follow up with your attorney if there is a Qualified Domestic Relations Order required to divide a retirement account or pension.
- Review the designation of beneficiary on any life insurance, to determine that it is either (1) in compliance with the divorce judgment, if you are required to maintain life insurance for the benefit of your spouse or children; or (2) consistent with your wishes, now that you are divorced.
- Similarly, review and change the designation of beneficiary on retirement accounts such as IRAs, and/or the survivor benefit relating to your pension.
- Review your will, which probably names your spouse as a beneficiary and/or executor. Talk with your attorney about making a new will.
- Change your income tax withholding to single status rather than married status, and speak with your accountant regarding changing your tax withholding in light of your changed financial status.