

# THINKING ABOUT DIVORCE?

**10 STEPS EVERY  
PROFESSIONAL SHOULD  
TAKE TODAY TO PROTECT  
THEIR INTERESTS**



**MELONE HATLEY, P.C.**  
Your Partner in Divorce

## **No One Said Divorce is Easy.**

**Going through a divorce can be overwhelming, and if you are a professional, it can be even more challenging. It is hard to figure out where to start, what you need to do, and who you can look to for advice. As difficult as divorce can be, it is important to have a solid plan, take decisive action, and put yourself in a position for the best possible outcome.**

**To help you get started on this journey, Melone Hatley, PC has created this list of must-do actions which are imperative in most divorce cases. Each case is unique, and this list is being provided for informational purposes only. You are always encouraged to speak with an attorney to discuss these action items to make sure you are in the best position for your future.**

**At Melone Hatley, PC we believe that the relationship you have with your attorney is a partnership and we are your partners through the divorce process.**

## **WRITE EVERYTHING DOWN**

**As you are going through a divorce, stress will be high, and you may start to forget important details and facts related to your divorce. It is a good idea to start keeping a journal or a log detailing everything that is happening. In addition to being able to help you later, you may find this to be a good outlet for all the emotions you will be going through.**

## **INVENTORY YOUR BELONGINGS**

**Divorce is stressful, and you will forget things. The more that you can write down, the better. It is important to start creating an inventory of your personal belongings and important assets. While this may seem to be a cumbersome undertaking, it will be better to do this now rather than waiting until the end of your divorce. If one person moves out, it can be difficult to remember what everyone has.**

## **CHANGE YOUR PASSWORDS**

**Change ALL your passwords. This includes banking, email, social media, phone, and any other important passwords that you have. You want to make sure that the only person able to get access to your important information is you. Further, you want to make sure that your soon to be ex-spouse does not have the ability to change your passwords on you. You may also want to consider using two factor authentication and updating security questions.**

## **COLLECT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Make a file of all family financial information that you may lose access to as the divorce continues. This includes tax filings, credit reports, bank account statements, retirement statements, mortgage statements, and any other statement with important financial information.**

## **GET YOUR FINANCES IN ORDER**

**Open a separate bank account and be sure that you have the necessary, separate funds, to live separately from your spouse. Make sure to keep an eye on jointly held bank accounts and credit. One person can drain a bank account or max out a credit card quickly.**

## **LIMIT OR STOP USING SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Social media has quickly become one of the best and most used tools in divorce litigation. The amount of information that people are willing to share has become a gold-mine for divorce attorneys. Remember that your activities on social media can be subpoenaed and your conversations can be used in court. Do not make new posts, comment on posts, or even “like” certain things that could be misconstrued while you go through a divorce.**

## **WATCH HOW YOU COMMUNICATE**

**All too often individuals going through divorce say things they otherwise would not say. Professionals going through a divorce may vent to a friend or colleague over email or text message and not realize how the words can come back to haunt them in litigation. Do your best to make all communications as cordial as possible. Be careful to not be baited into hostile arguments. Remember that verbal communications can be recorded—so be careful!**

## **TALK TO YOUR DIRECT SUPERVISOR**

**If you are a professional going through divorce it is important to understand that it can impact your job. In addition to the threat of your spouse calling your work, posting something online, or making false claims against you, the time that the divorce can take away from your job is immense. Talk to your direct supervisor to let them know what is going on and work to ensure there is minimal impact on your profession.**



## **PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR CHILDREN**

**Being a parent going through divorce is especially difficult. In addition to dealing with your own issues, you must prioritize what your children are going through. It is a good idea to make sure you are spending as much time with your children as possible. Pay attention to what they are going through and get them the appropriate help if necessary to deal with the changing family dynamic.**

## **DON'T WAIT**

**The biggest mistake you can make is to wait too long before you take any action. If you are going through divorce, or headed for divorce, make sure to do something each day that will protect you. If you do not, you will find yourself in a vulnerable position. We see too many professionals that have decided to bury themselves in their work while their spouse has moved forward with the divorce. It can be impossible to catch up once you fall behind. Putting a plan together today can save you in the long run.**

For you to protect your family, your finances, and your future, you need a partner you can trust through your difficult divorce. The team at Melone Hatley, PC is committed to being your partner through this difficult transition. We are experienced in all areas of family law and estate planning. Our team's strength is ensuring that we always aggressively pursue your goals and your interests.

## Discuss your Case with Us

Contact us today to schedule a consultation with our team and see the difference we can make for you.

1 (800) 479-8124

[www.MeloneHatley.com](http://www.MeloneHatley.com)

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