

DIVORCE

We're here to help you.

Going through a legal separation or a divorce creates many challenges, including how you handle and account for your money. That's why FORUM Credit Union has created this kit. Our goal is to provide the information you need so that you can make the best choices to meet today's needs and prepare for a financially healthy future. Inside, you'll find a variety of helpful resources and suggested sources for more information. And don't forget that answers to your questions are as close as your nearby FORUM location.

Changing Your FORUM Accounts

To protect the interests of both parties and meet our obligations under the law, we have procedures that must be followed. We'll do our best to make the process simple, and we appreciate your cooperation.

Removing a Joint Owner's Name From a Savings, Checking, or Money Market Account

You can close the account and reopen it in your name only (and you don't need the other party's signature). If the other party is the primary owner, you cannot remove their name (although the primary owner can do this for you), but you can establish a new account in your name only.

Changing the Names On a Loan

If you currently have a FORUM loan under both of your names, the party responsible for the loan (as set forth in the divorce decree) can apply to refinance the loan in their name only. Once the loan is refinanced, the other name is removed and the payment history of the loan will no longer affect that individual.

Separate FORUM Accounts

If you plan to have separate FORUM accounts, you may request transfers between these accounts in writing, in person, or through CU Online. The member sending the transfer needs to authorize the request to protect your account security.

NEED TO KNOW

Things you may not realize about divorce.

Protecting Your Credit History

If you and your ex-spouse are both listed on a mortgage, auto loan, or other debt, how that debt is repaid will affect both parties' credit histories — even if your divorce decree specifies that only one of you is responsible for payments. For example, if both names are on an auto loan that your ex-spouse is supposed to pay, and he or she fails to do so, that nonpayment will appear on your credit history, too. You may want to refinance all debts under just one name to reflect the decree and protect your credit.

Motor Vehicle Titles

If the divorce decree specifies that you are the owner of a car or truck that the two of you had owned together, you can apply for a new title that will state that you are the sole owner. This can prevent problems down the road.

Real Estate Ownership

If the divorce decree says that you are the sole owner of a house, land, or other real estate that the two of you had owned together, the party who is giving up ownership should file a quitclaim deed to renounce his or her share. That will prevent the non-owner from being legally liable in matters related to the real estate, and will make any future sale of the real estate much easier.

BUDGETING

How will divorce impact your finances?

Everyone involved in a divorce has some sort of significant change to their finances — and those changes can be challenging. In many cases, people who were accustomed to two incomes now find themselves managing all of their costs with just one source of money.

It can be especially challenging if you have assumed full responsibility for the cost of your home or raising children — or if the divorce has left you with legal and other debts to pay off. Even people who were finally comfortable before divorce may find it difficult to pay all of their monthly bills.

That's why budgeting is so important. By taking time to find how you're spending your money, and comparing that spending to your income, you may be better able to organize all those monthly bills. You may also find ways to cut spending — for example, eating out less often.

A great way to start budgeting is to write down every penny you spend for a full month and then enter it into a chart like the one that appears below. That way, you'll have an accurate picture of how you use money. Be sure to enter your income from work and any payments of spousal or child support, too — but don't list sources you can't depend upon (like bonuses and gifts).

If you're spending more than you take in, look for places where you can cut back. And if money is especially tight, you may want to consider applying for food stamps, TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families), WIC (if you have small children), or other state and federal programs to help you get back on your feet.

EXPENSES

Rent/Mortgage: _____	Daycare: _____	Doctor Bills: _____
Insurance: _____	Camps: _____	Dental: _____
Property Taxes: _____	Kids Lunches: _____	Eye Care: _____
Gas: _____	Team Fees: _____	Repairs: _____
Electric: _____	School Photos: _____	Gifts/Cards: _____
Phone: _____	Allowances: _____	Cleaning Supply: _____
Cable: _____	Office Supplies: _____	Clothing: _____
Water: _____	Bank Fees: _____	Barber: _____
Trash: _____	Credit Cards: _____	Nails: _____
Sewer: _____	Bank Loans: _____	Pet Care: _____
Internet: _____	Auto Loans: _____	Magazines: _____
Cell Phone: _____	Auto Gas: _____	Newspaper: _____
Groceries: _____	Auto Insurance: _____	Health Ins: _____
Eating Out: _____	Tires/oil/maint: _____	Life Ins: _____
Pocket Cash: _____	Tolls: _____	
Total Expenses: _____		

INCOME

Wages & Salary: _____	Business Income: _____	Child Support: _____
Rental Income: _____	Pension: _____	Alimony: _____
Investments/ Interest: _____		
Total Income: _____		

RESOURCES

Need some expert advice about your situation?

Divorce is a complicated, stressful process — and one with which most people haven't had any experience. These websites and books can help answer your questions on everything from your legal rights to how your divorce may affect your children.

Helpful Websites

Divorce Net — www.divorcenet.com

An online community and a nationwide directory of lawyers and mediators.

Divorce Resource Center — www.divorce-resource-center.com

A single source for divorce lawyers, counselors and more.

Custody Source — www.custodysource.com/state.htm

A state-by-state guide to custody laws and information.

Children & Divorce — www.childrenanddivorce.com

A resource for parents, kids and professionals about divorce-related issues.

Divorce Law Resource — www.law.cornell.edu/wex/index.php/Main_Page

A public-access law dictionary and encyclopedia sponsored by the Cornell Law School.

Dads & Divorce — www.dadsdivorce.com

Information and resources about divorce, custody and child support for fathers.

Woman's Divorce — www.womansdivorce.com

Information on legal, financial, and emotional aspects, and advice for starting over.

Divorce Interactive — www.divorceinteractive.com/

State-specific directories, articles, and survival tools.

Art of Divorce — www.artofdivorce.com

A blog offering law articles and resources.

Child Support Website — www.in.gov/dcs/support

A resource from the Indiana Division of Child Services.

Books

The Divorce Handbook, by James Friedman

Divorce with Decency, by Bradley Coates

Don't Divorce Us! : Kids' Advice to Divorcing Parents, by Rita Sommers-Flanagan, Chelsea Elander, and John Sommers-Flanagan

Handbook for the Newly Divorced, by the American Bar Association

How It Feels When Parents Divorce, by Jill Kremenz

A Judge's Guide to Divorce: Uncommon Advice from the Bench, by Roderic Duncan

The Smart Divorce: Proven Strategies and Valuable Advice from 100 Top Divorce Lawyers, Financial Advisers, Counselors, and Other Experts, by Deborah Moskovitch