GenCrest
CAPITAL PARTNERS

THE ULTIMATE POST-DIVORCE CHECKLIST

A Strategic Roadmap for Financial Security, Legal Protection, and Personal Rebuilding

Divorce is not just the end of a marriage - it is the restructuring of your legal identity, financial structure, tax status, estate plan, risk exposure, and long-term wealth trajectory.

A Companion Checklist to the Marital Asset Protection Plan™ (MAPP)

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Name: ____

Date I began this journey: ___________________________

This checklist ensures that you move forward deliberately - not reactively.

SECTION 1

Immediate Legal & Administrative Actions
[First 30 Days]

☐ Obtain Certified Copies of Your Divorce Decree

- ☐ Secure multiple certified copies.
- ☐ You will need them for banks, retirement plans, insurance carriers, Social Security, and estate planning updates.

☐ Confirm All Settlement Terms Are Executed

- ☐ Property transfers completed
- ☐ Deeds retitled
- ☐ QDROs submitted and approved
- ☐ Bank accounts divided
- ☐ Vehicles retitled
- ☐ Business ownership updated

Do not assume this was handled. Confirm in writing.

SECTION 2

Financial Account Restructuring

☐ Close All Joint Accounts

- ☐ Checking
- ☐ Savings
- ☐ Credit Cards
- ☐ Lines of Credit
- ☐ Brokerage Accounts

☐ Change All Passwords

- ☐ Banking
- ☐ Investment Accounts
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Cloud Storage
- ☐ Social Media
- ☐ Payroll Systems

☐ Open New Individual Accounts

- ☐ Checking
- ☐ Savings
- ☐ Brokerage
- ☐ High-Yield Emergency Fund

☐ Remove Ex-Spouse as Autorized User

- ☐ Credit Cards
- ☐ Business Accounts
- ☐ Insurance Policies

SECTION 3 Credit Protection & Debt Management

☐ Pull Your Credit Report [All 3 Bureaus]

- ☐ Credit Cards
- ☐ Business Accounts
- ☐ Insurance Policies

Review for:

- ☐ Joint debts not refinanced
- ☐ Unauthorized activity
- ☐ Late payments

☐ Refinance Joint Debts [If Required by Decree]

- ☐ Mortgage
- ☐ Auto Loans
- ☐ HELOC's
- ☐ Personal Loans

Until refinanced, you remain legally liable.

☐ Establish Independent Credit [If you previously relied on your spouse's credit]

- ☐ Open a secured credit card
- ☐ Maintain low utilization [under 30%]
- ☐ Pay on time - every time

SECTION 4 Income & Cash Flow Planning

☐ Create a New Post-Divorce Budget

- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Utilities
- ☐ Insurance
- ☐ Health Care
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Child Expenses
- ☐ Taxes
- ☐ Retirement Contributions

Be realistic. Underestimating expenses creates long-term instability.

☐ Build or Rebuild an Emergency Fund - 6-12 months of expenses and store in high-yield savings or money market account.

SECTION 5 Support Payments [If Applicable]

- ☐ Confirm Child Support Terms
  - ☐ Payment Amount
  - ☐ Payment Schedule
  - ☐ Medical Expense Division
  - ☐ Extracurricular Expense Agreements
  - ☐ College Funding Language
- ☐ Confirm Spousal Support Terms
  - ☐ Duration
  - ☐ Modifiability
  - ☐ Termination Triggers
  - ☐ Life Insurance Requirement to Secure Payments
- ☐ Set Up Proper Tracking System
  - ☐ Court-Monitored Payment System
  - ☐ Direct Deposit Documentation
  - ☐ Maintain Records

SECTION 6 Tax Planning After Divorce

Divorce changes your tax identity.

- ☐ Update Filing Status
  - ☐ Single
  - ☐ Head of Household
- ☐ Confirm Child-Related Tax Allocation
  - ☐ Child Tax Credit
  - ☐ Head of Household Status
  - ☐ 8332 Form [if applicable]
  - ☐ Education Credits
- ☐ Adjust Withholding - Update W-4 to reflect:
  - ☐ New Filing Status
  - ☐ Dependents
  - ☐ Income Changes
- ☐ Estimate Quarterly Taxes [If receiving support or self-employed]

- ☐ Review Capital Gains Exposure, Especially if:
  - ☐ You kept investment accounts
  - ☐ You received highly appreciated stock
  - ☐ You retained rental property

SECTION 7 Retirement & Investment Review

- ☐ Confirm QDRO Completion
  - ☐ Has the retirement transfer been processed?
  - ☐ Was it rolled into a proper IRA?
  - ☐ Any unintented taxable distributions?

- ☐ Update Beneficiaries Immediately
  - ☐ 401 (k)
  - ☐ IRA
  - ☐ Brokerage
  - ☐ Pension
  - ☐ Annuities

- ☐ Reassess Asset Allocation - Divorce often changes:
  - ☐ Risk Tolerance
  - ☐ Time Horizon
  - ☐ Liquidity Needs

- ☐ Increase Retirement Contributions [If possible]
  - ☐ You lost pension access
  - ☐ You lost spousal Social Security benefits
  - ☐ You are over age 50 [catch-up eligible]

SECTION 8 Insurance Review

- ☐ Health Insurance
  - ☐ Cobra
  - ☐ Marketplace
  - ☐ Employer Coverage
  - ☐ Premium Tax Credit Eligibility
- ☐ Life Insurance

  If Receiving Support
  - ☐ Ensure ex-spouse maintains required coverage
  - ☐ Confirm you are listed as beneficiary
  - ☐ Request annual proof

  If Paying Support
  - ☐ Confirm compliance with decree
- ☐ Disability Insurance - If you depend on Income:
  - ☐ Confirm adequate coverage
- ☐ Auto & Home Insurance
  - ☐ Remove ex-spouse
  - ☐ Update ownership
  - ☐ Adjust liability limits

SECTION 9 Estate Planning Overhaul - This is non-negotiable

- ☐ Draft a New Will
- ☐ Create or Update Trust
- ☐ Update:
  - ☐ Power of Attorney
  - ☐ Healthcare Proxy
  - ☐ Living Will
- ☐ Update Beneficiaries On:
  - ☐ Retirement Accounts
  - ☐ Life Insurance
  - ☐ Brokerage
  - ☐ HSA
  - ☐ Payable-on-Death Accounts

  Many states do NOT automatically remove ex-spouse as beneficiary

SECTION 10 Real Estate & Housing Strategy

- ☐ Confirm Title Ownership
  - ☐ Sole Ownership?
  - ☐ Refinance Complete?
- ☐ Evaluate Affordability
  - ☐ Mortgage Payment < 30-35% of Income
  - ☐ Property Taxes
  - ☐ Maintenance Costs
- ☐ Consider Long-Term Housing
  - ☐ Stay?
  - ☐ Downsize?
  - ☐ Relocate?

The emotional attachment to the home must not override financial sustainability.

SECTION 11 Social Security & Long-Term Benefits

- ☐ Understand Social Security Divorce Benefits

IF:

- ☐ Marriage lasted 10+ years
- ☐ You are unmarried
- ☐ Age 62+

You may claim spousal benefits without reducing ex-spouse's benefit.

- ☐ Pension Survivor Benefits

Confirm:

- ☐ You are protected as alternate payee
- ☐ Required elections were made at the time of divorce

SECTION 12 Career & Income Rebuilding

- ☐ Update Resume
- ☐ Increase Skills / Certifications
- ☐ Explore:
  - ☐ Promotions
  - ☐ Business Ownership
  - ☐ Consulting
  - ☐ Passive Income Opportunities

Divorce often creates a career pivot opportunity.

SECTION 13 Emotional & Behavioral Finance Reset

Financial success post-divorce is not just math - it is behavior.

- ☐ Avoid Revenge Spending
- ☐ Avoid Emotional Investing
- ☐ Avoid Overcompensating Through Lifestyle Inflation
- ☐ Consider Therapy or Financial Coaching

SECTION 14 Long-Term Wealth Building Plan

- ☐ Establish 5-Year Plan
- ☐ Establish 10-Year Plan
- ☐ Define
  - ☐ Retirement Target
  - ☐ Income Replacement Ratio
  - ☐ Education Funding Goals
  - ☐ Legacy Goals
- ☐ Create Investment Policy Statement

SECTION 15 Annual Review Checklist

- ☐ Create a New Post-Divorce Budget
  - ☐ Review Beneficiaries
  - ☐ Review Insurance Coverage
  - ☐ Review Tax Strategy
  - ☐ Review Support Compliance
  - ☐ Rebalance Investments
  - ☐ Update Estate Documents if Life Changes

SECTION 16 Special Situations

If High Net-Worth:

- ☐ Review trusts for irrevocability
- ☐ Assess GRAT's, SLAT's, Charitable Trusts
- ☐ Evaluate business entity restructuring

If Business Owner:

- ☐ Update operating agreements
- ☐ Review buy-sell provisions
- ☐ Confirm valuation methods

If Blended Family:

- ☐ Create structured inheritance plan
- ☐ Use trusts to avoid conflict

SECTION 17 Identity & Personal Rebuilding

- ☐ Update Name [If Applicable]
- ☐ Update:
  - ☐ Passport
  - ☐ Driver's License
  - ☐ Social Security Records
  - ☐ Professional Licenses
- ☐ Rebuild Personal Vision

Financial independence is not survival - it is autonomy.

SECTION 18 Final Protection Review

Ask Yourself:

- ☐ If I died tomorrow, is everything protected?
- ☐ If I became disabled, is income protected?
- ☐ If my ex stopped paying support, do I have a backup?
- ☐ If markets drop 30%, am I protected?
- ☐ If I lose my job, do I have 6+ months cash?

If any answer is no - address it immediately.

The Strategic Truth About Post-Divorce Wealth

Divorce can either:

- ☐ Permanently destabilize your finances
- ☐ Reset and strengthen your financial architecture

The difference is execution. Most people stop planning once the decree is signed. That is where financial vulnerability begins.

The individuals who thrive post-divorce:

- ☐ Plan deliberately
- ☐ Act strategically
- ☐ Seek professional guidance
- ☐ Review annually
- ☐ Invest in themselves

Closing Perspective

Post-divorce independence is not about "getting back to where you were." It is about building something stronger, smarter and entirely your own. This checklist is not merely administrative. It is architectural. Use it to rebuild your financial foundation with clarity, power and confidence. Your next chapter is not defined by what ended. It is defined by what you build next.

Ready to Take Your Next Step?

Schedule your complimentary strategy session with Sherry and the GenCrest Capital Partners team.

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Companion Book: The Marital Asset Protection Plan™ (MAPP)