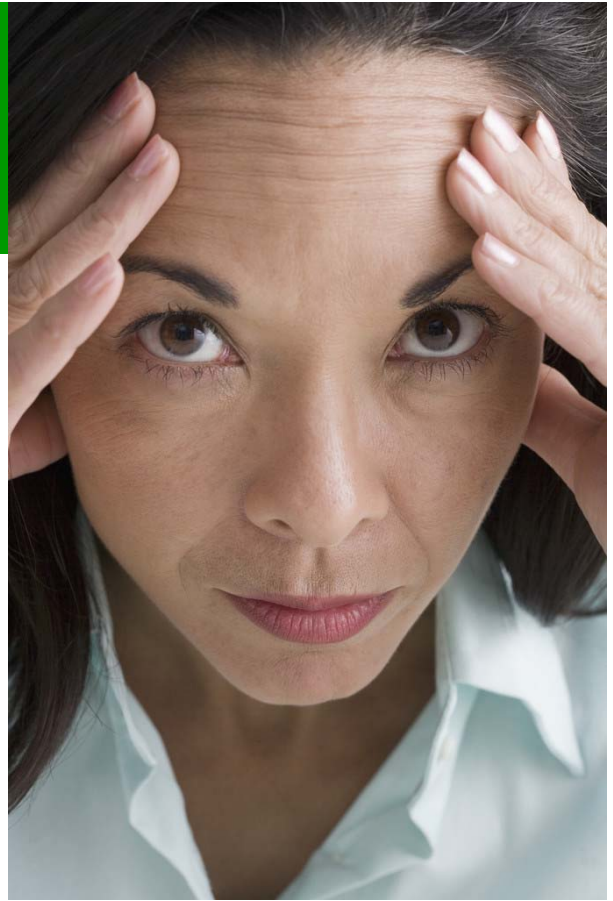


Dealing With Divorce

Do You Feel As Though You Have Lost Control of Your Finances?

Are You Unsure About What Your Options Are?

Many people find themselves in a difficult financial position during and after divorce. They may have been partially or completely dependant on the spouse's income, they may have joint investments and credit accounts and they may never have handled their finances on their own. The distribution of future income and current assets and liabilities is governed by state laws. You should seek the help of an attorney who specializes in divorce. Lawyers are expensive and anything that you can do to prepare for your meeting with the attorney will save you money.



Here are some things that you can do to make the process easier:

- Locate all important legal documents such as your birth certificate, mortgage documents, car title, insurance policies, social security card, marriage certificate and tax records.
- Make a list of all of your assets and outstanding debts. Make sure you know which financial institutions they are in.
- Get written proof of your income and your spouse's income.
- Separate your bank and credit accounts as soon as possible.
- Make sure that your will, beneficiaries on insurance policies, retirement plans and any other accounts are in order.
- Cancel any joint credit lines. If you suspect that your spouse might apply for additional joint credit, you might consider freezing your credit file.

Some things to understand:

- Even if your divorce settlement requires the spouse to pay joint credit obligations, you are still obligated. Check the accounts regularly to make sure the payments are made on time.
- You may be liable for some obligations incurred by your spouse, even if they are in his/her name alone.
- You need to project your budget for after the divorce. You may want to keep an asset such as a house but if the cash flow isn't there it will cause financial problems later on. Novadebt can supply materials that can help with this.



Resource for further information

Federal Trade Commission

www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/pubs/credit/divorce.shtm

This advice is for general information. Your situation may be different. You should always consult an attorney before making any decisions.

An Educational Message from

novadebt

A Garden State Consumer Credit Counseling Organization

225 Willowbrook Road
Freehold, NJ 07728
1-800-99-BILLS
www.novadebt.org

