

Documents To Bring For Your First Divorce Consultation

The following is a list of documents that are relevant to various property and support issues in divorce. They may or may not be required for your case. If the documents are available, bring them for your first appointment.

1. Agreements between the parties
2. Federal and state individual tax returns and worksheets last five years
3. Gift and inheritance tax returns
4. Current pay stubs for you and your spouse
5. Business tax returns (federal and state for closely held businesses)
6. Business records and employment agreements, particularly those related to ownership, assets, liabilities, income, and expenses
7. Patents and copyrights
8. Information on pensions, 401k and IRAs (account statements, copies of plans) for you and your spouse
9. Information on investments (account statements, stocks, bonds, limited partnership agreements, reports on investments)
10. Real estate records, including deeds, leases, tax assessments, mortgage documents and agreements
11. Net worth statements or loan applications
12. Resumes (current and those prepared before litigation was initiated)
12. Personal and business bank statements and canceled checks
13. Trusts
14. Loan agreements for which client serves as guarantor
15. Safety deposit box and vault records that reflect payment of lease, location of box or vault, and contents

16. Insurance records, including policies, applications, invoices, and correspondence
17. Medical and dental records
18. Charge account records
19. Records pertaining to cash expenditures
20. Receipts and invoices (by type or above a certain dollar amount)
21. Record of charitable contributions, including receipts, checks, correspondence, and reports
22. Family budgets (before and after the decision to divorce)
23. Record of education expenses (for parties or children), including tuition, room, board, books, contracts, and loans
24. Record of household expenses for utilities, maintenance, improvements, repairs, household help, and any other related costs
25. Travel records, including itineraries, tickets, passports, bills, receipts, photographs, films, videos, brochures
26. Lists of personal property
27. Appraisals of real estate, business interests, and personal property
28. Court record of cases in which client, spouse, or closely held business is or has been a party (including prior divorces)
29. Wills
30. Record of who has powers of attorney