

# Getting Divorced

## Step 1

### Decide if divorce is the right next step.

There's no "right" reason to divorce. Consider talking to a therapist – with or without your partner – to get clarity and support.

*If you're in an abusive relationship, get support from the [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) through a live chat, by calling 800-799-SAFE (7233) or by texting "START" to 88788.*

## Step 2

### Choose an attorney or mediator.

If you and your spouse are on the same page, you may be able to go through mediation and only pay an attorney to review your final settlement agreement. For more contentious separations, an experienced divorce attorney will be your best advocate.

*Blending families? Trustworthy offers multi-household access, so you can connect with an unlimited number of family members from your account and keep everyone in the loop.*

## Step 3

### Gather important documents.

Get ready – when you meet with an attorney or mediator, you'll be asked for a significant amount of paperwork. Be ready to share information about:

- Your bank accounts (checking and saving)
- Investment accounts
- Retirement accounts
- Pension plans
- Insurance policies
- Home mortgage
- Home equity loan
- Auto loans
- Credit card debit

- Student loans
- Properties you own (like real estate and vehicles)
- Health Insurance
- Life insurance
- Tax info (for instance, pending refunds, liabilities, and deductions for children)

*Add these documents to Trustworthy so you can be confident that they're all in one place. You can then invite your attorney or mediator to access the information as they help you through the divorce process.*

#### Step 4

### File the necessary paperwork.

Each state has different divorce requirements. Instructions should be available on your state court's website, along with the papers you'll need to fill out. Prepare to sign a lot of documents, some in the presence of a notary public, and submit them with a filing fee.

*Some states allow you to apply online for a divorce. If so, you'll upload digital copies of all your necessary documents. Add them to Trustworthy ahead of time to simplify this process.*

#### Step 5

### Share divorce papers with your spouse.

Even if you're on great terms with your partner, you can't simply hand them divorce papers. These documents are to be served to them. Your county clerk's office will give you instructions on using a licensed process server.

#### Step 6

### Sign an official settlement.

If you and your spouse can come to terms without going to court, you'll sign an official settlement agreement and have it notarized, along with documents like:

- Financial statement
- Child support worksheet
- Non-military affidavit
- Notice of hearing or request to put the case on the calendar

## Trustworthy.

## Step 7

### Get a divorce decree.

A judge will ensure that you and your spouse are in agreement about the dissolution of your domestic partnership and the terms of the settlement. They'll issue a court order ending your marriage, which is called a divorce decree.

*Request a certified copy of your divorce decree and add it to Trustworthy. You'll need to show this legal document if you decide to change your name, remarry, refinance your home, close a joint bank account, or make changes to estate planning documents.*

## Step 8

### Celebrate 🎉

Divorce is never easy, but you made it through. Take a moment to appreciate where you are now, and look ahead to the next chapter of your life.

*If you and your partner share custody, you can also share important information through Trustworthy. It's the perfect (secure) place to keep everything from emergency contact info and health insurance details to tax documents and tuition info.*