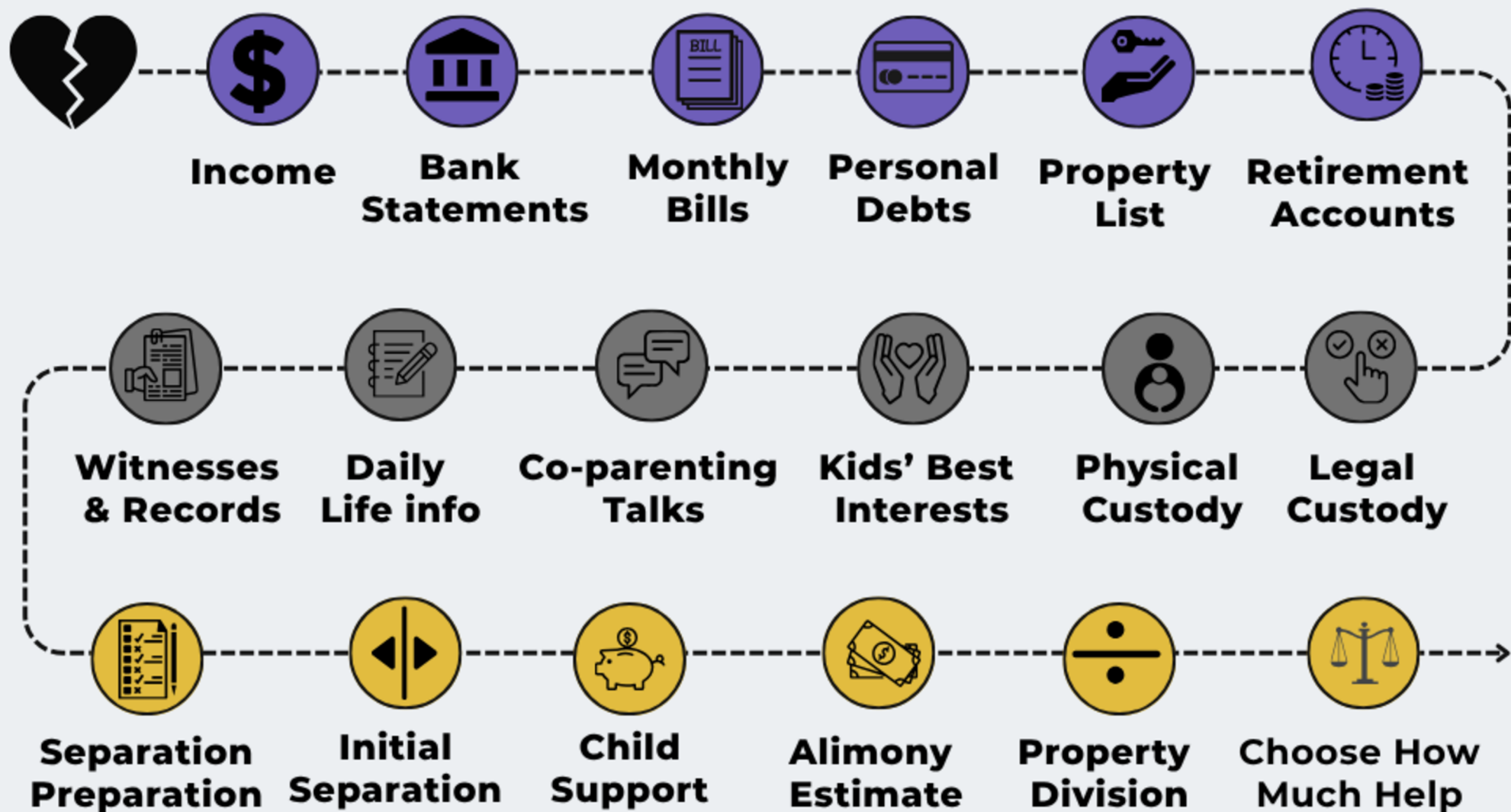


MARRIAGE EXIT ROADMAP:



MONEY

1

INCOME

“Do I Know What My Spouse Really Makes?”

▶ You’ve stopped asking because it always turns into a fight—but you’re starting to wonder what’s really being hidden. It’s been a long time since you’ve seen a real paystub. You don’t know exactly how much money he makes now. When you ask, he either changes the subject or acts upset, so you stopped asking. For a while, you trusted that everything was fine — the bills were paid, the lights stayed on. But now, you’re starting to wonder if you should have looked closer. You’re not trying to start a fight. You just know that if you ever need to leave, you need to know the truth. Seeing the real paystubs will help you protect yourself — not to take everything, but to make sure you’re not left with nothing.

2

BANK RECORDS

“Where Is the Money Really Going?”

▶ Things feel off—you want to know if there’s money being moved, spent, or saved somewhere you can’t see. You used to glance at the account and think, “Looks fine.” But lately, something feels off. You’re noticing weird charges, late-night transfers, or entire paychecks that seem to disappear. You’ve asked, and the answers don’t sit right: “It’s nothing,” “Just a few things for the house,” “Don’t worry about it.” But you do worry. You’re starting to feel like money is being hidden or spent behind your back—and that maybe it has been for a while. You want to believe you’re overthinking... but your gut is saying otherwise. You don’t want to fight about every dollar, but you do want clarity. You’re tired of not knowing. The bank statements don’t lie—and it’s time to look at the truth, even if it scares you.

3

MONTHLY BILLS

“How Much Does It Take to Run This House?”

▶ You’ve never sat down to look at the numbers—but now you need to know what it really costs to live like this. It’s been a long time since you sat down and looked at what it costs to live here. You and your spouse each pay some bills, but you’ve never added it all up together. You’ve been so busy handling the kids, work, and keeping the peace. You’ve just trusted it was all being done right. But you’re wondering—how much money do you need to keep the lights on, the mortgage paid, and groceries bought? You need real numbers, not guesses. Because if you ever have to leave, you’ll need to know what it takes to keep doing what you’ve always done. This isn’t about controlling everything. It’s about making sure you can stand on your own when it matters most.

MONEY CONTINUED

4

DEBTS

“What Debts Might I Be Stuck With?”

▶ You're not sure what you might be on the hook for—and you're worried your spouse hasn't been honest about what's owed. You're starting to realize it's not just about what you own—it's about what you owe. And the scary part? Some of that debt might have your name on it, even if you didn't know about it or agree to it. Credit cards, loans, maybe even a new car you never wanted—now you're wondering what else might be out there that you don't know about. Every time you ask, he changes the subject or tells you that you're overreacting. But deep down, you know something doesn't add up. You're not trying to start a fight—you just want the truth. Because if you have to leave, you need to know what debts will follow you—and which ones you can leave behind. This isn't just about money. It's about protecting your future.

5

PROPERTY

“What Do We Actually Own?”

▶ You want to know what's “yours,” “theirs,” and what really belongs to both—before anything gets taken or lost. You look around your home and wonder— “If this all ends, what happens to everything we've built?” Can you keep the house that holds all your memories? Can you keep the car you drive to work every day? What about the kids' furniture, their toys, their clothes? You're not sure what counts as “mine,” “his,” or “ours,” and you're scared it might not even matter once lawyers get involved. Maybe your name is on the title? Maybe it isn't? You've heard stories of people walking away with nothing but regret. You don't want to be that person. You want to know what's at stake—before papers get filed, before things get ugly. You're not trying to take more than your share. You just want to protect what matters—for you and for your kids.

6

RETIREMENT

“What Will I Have for My Future?”

▶ You've given up a lot for this family—now you want to make sure you don't walk away with nothing. You wonder: What will I have for my future? Your spouse acts like everything you have is because of them. The house. The money. The life you built. Your spouse talks like you didn't help at all. They act like you should be thankful for whatever is left. And for a little while, you almost believe them. You ask yourself: Did I even do enough? But deep down, you know the truth. You worked hard too. You gave up time, dreams, and energy. You helped build this life. You are not asking for more than you deserve. You are standing up for what is fair. Your future matters. And you have every right to protect it.

KIDS

LEGAL CUSTODY

“Who Gets to Decide What’s Best for Our Kids?”

▶ You’ve been the one showing up — now you’re afraid you’ll lose your say in what really matters. You have been the one going to doctor visits, signing school papers, and staying up late worrying about your child. You worry you may have to “share” those choices. Or, maybe even lose the right to make them. It scares you to think that someone else—like a judge—could decide what is best for your child. You know how much you have done, but you worry no one else will see it. You are not trying to control everything. You don’t want their needs to get lost in a fight. You just want to protect your child and make sure their future is safe.

PHYSICAL CUSTODY

“Where Will Our Kids Sleep at Night??”

▶ The idea of not seeing your child every day breaks your heart — and you’re scared a judge won’t understand why that matters. You wonder where your child will sleep. Will you see them every day? Who will have the weekdays, weekends, and holidays? You worry that a judge might just split the time without knowing what your child needs. You think about all the times you stayed up with them when they were sick. You remember rushing to school drop-offs and helping with homework. You worry no one will see how much you have done. You are not trying to push the other parent away. You just want your child to feel safe and loved. You know what is fair for adults is not always what is best for kids. You are ready to speak up.

BEST INTERESTS

“How Do I Put Our Kid’s Best Interests First?”

▶ You want the schedule to work for your kids—not just what’s convenient for the adults. You are thinking about what is best for your kids. You know they need stability, consistency, and safety. You want the schedule with each parent to be good for them, not just what is easiest for the adults. You want the time spent with each parent to be quality time—not rushed or stressful. You are thinking about how to keep them in the same school, in the activities they love, and close to family and friends. You want their world to stay steady even if the family is changing. You are wondering what kind of schedule would be best for them. You also worry your spouse might focus more on what he wants than what the kids need. You are hoping you can find a way to keep things calm, steady, and safe for your kids.

KIDS CONTINUED

4

COMMUNICATION

“How Are We Supposed to Co-Parent Like This?”

▶ You’re barely speaking now—how are you supposed to make big parenting decisions together later? You worry about how you will protect the best interests of your kids when you can't talk to each other. Every text turns into a fight. Every update becomes stressful. You try to stay calm, but it does not help. You worry your spouse will leave you out of decisions. Or they'll make choices that hurt your child. Good co-parenting needs trust and being able to talk to each other. But right now, that feels out of reach. You wonder if an app or texting only would help. You want a plan that keeps your kids safe and their lives steady. If you cannot work together, you will be ready to protect your child and show what is best for them.

5

WITNESSES & RECORDS

“How Do I Show I’m the One Who’s Always Been There?”

▶ You’ve lived every moment—but now you worry you’ll need proof to prove it. You think about all the people who know the truth. Your family, your friends, your child’s teachers—they have all seen you show up. They have seen you at the doctor’s office, the school concerts, the games, and the bedtime stories. They know you have a close, strong bond with your child. You are not just saying it—you have lived it. Now you are asking yourself: How do I show this to the court? How do I show this to my spouse? You know you have the memories, the report cards, the photos, and people who will speak up for you. You just need to find a way to pull it all together and prove what you already know: you have always been there.

6

CHILD’S EXPENSES

“How Do We Support Our Kids Financially in Two Homes?”

You are thinking about how to keep life steady for your kids. You know living apart means two homes and more bills. Money will be tighter. You and your spouse may not agree on how to spend it anymore. You still need to pay for school, sports, lessons, clothes, books, and field trips. You want your kids to have what they need. You don’t want them to feel stress or miss out. They didn’t ask for this—and they deserve to feel safe and cared for. You are trying to plan for their needs and keep things fair. Even if you and your spouse see things differently, you want to protect their future.

PROCESS

1

SEPARATION
PREPARATION

“When’s the Best Time to Separate?”

▶ You know things can’t stay the same—but you want to be smart about when and how you take that first step. You are thinking seriously about divorce. Your first step is to decide when to separate and when to talk to your spouse. You worry they could have a bad reaction. You are scared they might threaten you or say things that aren’t true. Before you talk, you want to know your rights and your options. You want to feel calm, ready, and clear. The best time to separate is when you have a plan and know what you need. Once you are ready, the next step is thinking about how to separate the right way.

2

INITIAL
SEPARATION

“What’s the Best Way to Start Separating?”

▶ You need a clear plan so you don’t lose your place, your rights, or your peace. The best way to separate is by planning ahead. You are thinking seriously about living apart, but you want to protect yourself first. You need a clear plan for who will pay the bills, who will stay in the home, and who will keep the car. You don’t want to be forced out and leave the kids behind. You don’t want to be blamed for leaving. You want to be ready if your spouse tries to twist the story. You hope you can divide things fairly and keep the peace. But if that is not possible, you need to be prepared. If you don’t plan first, you could lose more than you expect.

3

CHILD SUPPORT
CALCULATOR

“How Do I Get the Right Amount of Child Support?”

▶ You’re not trying to start a fight—you just want to know what’s fair and what your kids are owed. You want to make sure your kids are taken care of financially. You know talking about money with your spouse is going to be awkward. You worry they will say you don’t need anything or try to push for 50/50 just to avoid paying. You are not trying to take more than what is fair. You just want to know what the law says you should get. You want to be able to budget and know what to expect. You are learning how to use the child support calculator so you can find the right number. You want facts, not a fight. You want to be ready to care for your kids without having to beg for what they need.

PROCESS CONTINUED

4

ALIMONY
ESTIMATE

“Should There Be Any Alimony?”

▶ You're not sure what's fair—but you want to know your options before it's too late. You want to know if alimony is something you need to talk about. You don't want to be surprised later by getting nothing—or by being told you have to pay. You want to understand how alimony works before anything gets harder. You want to know what the law says is fair, not what your spouse says. You are not trying to get more than you should. And you don't want to give them a dime because of the choices they made. You just want to be ready, protect your rights, and plan for your future.

5

PROPERTY
DIVISION

“How Do We Divide Everything Fairly?”

▶ You know what you got —now you want a way to split things that honors what you gave to this marriage. You've figured out what you both have and what you owe. Now you want a fair way to divide it up. You're looking for clear direction and a simple way to show it—either to your spouse or the court. You want to be able to present everything without confusion or fighting. You believe things should be split down the middle because you gave just as much to this marriage. You know the way things get divided can impact your money for a long time. That's why you need a clear plan and a tool that helps you stay focused on what's fair.

6

PICK YOUR
HELP

“What Kind of Help Do I Really Need?”

▶ You don't want to [”]spend more than you have to—or risk everything by going it alone. You've talked to friends, read blogs, maybe even had a free consult. Everyone has advice—get a lawyer, try mediation, do it yourself. But they're not in your shoes. You don't want to waste money on a fight, but you also don't want to be taken advantage of. You need peace, but you also need protection. The truth is, you don't have to do this alone. You just need the kind of help that fits you—whether that's a lawyer, a coach, or someone to check your paperwork.