

The Divorce Considerations Checklist (April 2025 edition)
A calm, clear-headed path to protect your peace, your finances, and your future.
By Paul Nordini

Section 1: Before You Do Anything

Things to get clear on before hiring a lawyer or serving papers.

- Define your goals (Do you want peace? Custody? Closure? A reset?)
- Identify your spouse's likely reaction (Calm? Hostile? Manipulative?)
- Gather financial documents (tax returns, bank statements, debt)
- Understand your monthly expenses + assets
- Begin journaling any parenting issues (if applicable)

Pro Tip: The more prepared you are *before* anything is filed, the less damage control you'll need later.

Want help organizing your case before court? Book a Strategy Session with Paul Nordini (email me at paul@paulnordini.com)

Section 2: Avoid the Emotional Traps

This is where most people sabotage themselves—before the legal part even begins.

- Don't threaten divorce when emotional
- Don't vent to your spouse in text or email (move away from texting altogether).
- Don't weaponize the kids
- Don't hide money or rush to "win" - both will land you in protracted litigation.
- Don't follow advice from bitter or divorced friends. No two cases are identical.

Pro Tip: Strategic silence and planning beats emotional approaches every time.

Section 3: Pick the Right Path

Most people think there's only one way to get divorced. There are five.

- DIY (good if you have no kids, no assets, mutual agreement, and good forms)
- Private Mediation (works if both parties want peace)
- Lawyer Assisted Uncontested (you both agree, one lawyer drafts the documents).
- Assisted Mediation. A little like litigation - more like mediation. Good if you're close.
- Litigation (last resort—but you still need strategy)

Pro Tip: The best divorce path saves time, money, and emotional energy.

Not sure which path is right for you? Book a Strategy Session with me by emailing: paul@paulnordini.com

Section 4: Protect Your Future Now

You don't need a courtroom to start taking care of yourself.

- Get a financial advisor (even if temporarily) or line one up for a 401(k)
- Change and Update passwords & financial logins
- Revisit your will and medical directives
- Start planning your housing and custody situation
- Begin building your emotional support network
- Figure out how to afford a lawyer if litigation is on the horizon.

Pro Tip: The divorce ends on paper, but your future starts now and you should start planning.

I've helped thousands protect what matters most. Book a Session to discuss. Email me at paul@paulnordini.com.

Section 5: Know the Red Flags

If any of these show up, get guidance fast.

- Spouse is hiding money or lying about income
- Spouse threatens to take kids or leave the state
- You're being manipulated into signing anything
- You're scared, stuck, or overwhelmed
- You're "just hoping it'll all work out"

Pro Tip: Hope is not a strategy. Act quickly to lessen the damage of a manipulative spouse.

Let's make a plan. Book Your Private Divorce Strategy Session today at paul@paulnordini.com

Section 6: Initial Decisions when you File

- What to File and how it should "feel"
- Where to file and should you change your Judge?
- What kind of lawyer do you want, need, hire?
- Journaling your case, and why that matters. Diaries are important.
- Discovery wants versus needs (and what this means to the cost of your case).
- Prepare for settlement. This can be your reality within 30 days.