



DIVORCE WITH A PLAN

Family Law Attorneys

THE SPOUSAL SUPPORT CHECKLIST

With A Plan



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Welcome to Divorce with a **PLAN**

Facing a spousal support case can be a complex and emotional experience. It's essential to approach it with clarity, preparation, and a focus on securing a fair outcome that reflects your financial needs and contributions during the marriage.

Understanding the legal, financial, and logistical aspects of spousal support can feel overwhelming, but you don't have to face it alone. Our Spousal Support Checklist is designed to provide you with clear, actionable steps and valuable insights to help you navigate this process with confidence and care.

Whether you're seeking support or responding to a claim, being prepared with the right information and documents can make a significant difference in the outcome. Let us help you take control of this process and advocate for what you deserve.

Contact Divorce With A Plan for compassionate, expert guidance in your spousal support case. Together, we'll work toward a resolution that safeguards your future.

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Income and Employment Records

Accurate financial records are crucial for determining spousal support needs:

- Recent pay stubs (last 6-12 months).
 - Example: Pay stubs from January to December 2023 from ABC Corporation.
 - Tip: Check with your employer or payroll portal to download copies.
- Tax returns (last 3 years, including W-2s, 1099s, or other income forms).
 - Example: Federal and Maryland state tax returns for 2020, 2021, and 2022. Include W-2s from your job, 1099s for freelance work, or other forms like SSA-1099 for Social Security income.
- Bank statements (checking and savings, last 12 months).
 - Example: Monthly statements from Bank of America (Checking: 1234; Savings: 5678) covering March 2023 to February 2024.
- Documentation of bonuses, commissions, or overtime pay.
 - Example: Letter from employer stating a \$5,000 annual bonus received in 2022 or sales commission reports showing \$2,500 monthly average.
- Proof of any unemployment benefits or disability income.
 - Example: Maryland Unemployment Insurance payment receipts from July 2023 to September 2023 or disability statements from Social Security.
- Employment contracts or letters outlining your job role and income.
 - Example: Employment agreement with ABC Corporation indicating a \$60,000 annual salary, dated January 2020.

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Monthly Expenses and Financial Needs

Help clarify your financial obligations by compiling records of living expenses:

- A monthly budget worksheet detailing your regular expenses (e.g., rent, groceries, transportation).
 - Example: A spreadsheet listing rent (\$1,500), groceries (\$400), transportation (\$200), and other costs.
- Receipts or bills for major expenses (e.g., childcare, medical bills, or tuition).
 - Example: Invoice for childcare services from Little Steps Daycare (\$1,200/month) or tuition bill for a college course (\$3,000).
- Statements showing insurance premiums (health, life, auto, etc.).
 - Example: Health insurance statement showing a \$250/month premium with CareFirst BlueCross.
- Utility bills (e.g., electricity, gas, water).
 - Example: BGE electric bill for January 2024 showing \$125 or Comcast internet bill of \$75/month.

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Assets and Liabilities

Provides a clear picture of your financial net worth:

- Mortgage statements or rental agreements.
 - Example: Mortgage statement from Wells Fargo showing \$1,200/month or a lease agreement for an apartment in Baltimore.
- Vehicle loan documents or titles.
 - Example: Auto loan statement for a 2021 Honda Civic with a \$350/month payment or vehicle title for a paid-off 2018 Toyota Corolla.
- Recent statements for retirement accounts (401(k), IRA).
 - Example: Fidelity 401(k) quarterly statement showing \$50,000 in total contributions as of December 2023.
- Records of personal or joint debts (e.g., credit card balances, student loans).
 - Example: Credit card statement showing a \$5,000 balance on a Chase Sapphire card or a student loan account statement with Navient.

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Marriage and Separation Information

Legal documents that outline your marriage history and separation details:

- Your marriage certificate.
 - Example: Certified copy of your marriage certificate from the Maryland Department of Health.
- Proof of the date of separation (e.g., lease agreements, correspondence).
 - Example: Lease agreement for a new apartment starting on January 1, 2024, or text messages/emails discussing separation date.
- Copies of any prenuptial or postnuptial agreements.
 - Example: Signed prenuptial agreement dated June 2015 outlining property division terms.

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Spouse's Financial Information

If accessible, these provide insights into your spouse's financial status:

- Your spouse's pay stubs and tax returns (if accessible).
 - Example: Pay stubs from XYZ Corp showing a \$90,000 annual income or their joint tax return for 2022.
- Records of their bank accounts or investments.
 - Example: Joint savings account statement showing contributions or spouse's Robinhood investment account showing \$10,000 in stocks.
- Documentation of any past financial agreements or informal support arrangements.
 - Example: Text messages confirming \$500 monthly support payments for shared bills.

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Health and Lifestyle Factors

These can impact your ability to earn income or the spousal support calculation:

- Medical records if health issues affect your ability to work.
 - Example: Doctor's note diagnosing chronic back pain and recommending limited physical activity.

- Proof of age (e.g., a driver's license or birth certificate).
 - Example: Copy of a driver's license or birth certificate showing date of birth.

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Child-Related Financial Contributions

If children are involved, collect evidence of shared costs:

- Expenses related to childcare, education, or extracurricular activities.
 - Example: Invoice for summer camp (\$500) or piano lessons (\$150/month).

- Shared costs for medical expenses and insurance premiums for children.
 - Example: Receipts for co-pays for pediatric visits or children's dental coverage premiums.

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Supporting Documentation

Any additional documents that help establish your financial contributions and needs:

- Records showing your role in supporting your spouse's career (e.g., paying for education, career relocation support).
 - Example: Receipts for tuition paid for your spouse's degree program or email confirmations of job relocation expenses.
- Evidence of job search efforts if you are unemployed or underemployed.
 - Example: Copies of applications submitted on LinkedIn, emails with recruiters, or unemployment office appointment records.
- Certifications, diplomas, or training records to show employability.
 - Example: Certified nursing assistant (CNA) license renewal dated July 2023 or LinkedIn Learning course completion certificates.

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Thank you!

SPEAK WITH AN EXPERIENCED FAMILY LAW ATTORNEY NOW

We truly appreciate you taking the first step toward securing the support and stability you need. Our Spousal Support Checklist is designed to help you stay organized and prepared throughout this process.

If you need additional guidance or have questions, don't hesitate to reach out for a consultation tailored to your unique circumstances. Our compassionate team is here to guide you every step of the way and advocate for your best interests.

We're just one call away!

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