

# CHECKLIST OF WAYS TO HELP YOUR CASE IN DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS

- Seek early legal advice from an experienced matrimonial lawyer.
- Get your financial papers in order and get on top of what assets and liabilities you have and their values.
- Do not dissipate assets. It will not stand you in good stead.
- If it's likely that you will need to return to work, be proactive; update training, contact recruitment agencies, update your CV.
- If it's likely the former matrimonial home will need to be sold, take steps to maximise its value.
- If it's likely that you will need to find a new home, start reviewing the property market.
- Understand how much you need to live monthly. It will be necessary to carry out this exercise as part of the process.
- Be conscious about your spending. Overspending will be criticised.
- Maximise your income abilities: this will impact on your borrowing capabilities.
- Engage in the legal process and avoid creating unnecessary delay.
- Communicate regularly with your lawyer to maintain momentum.
- Consider whether you may benefit from accountancy or financial advice and discuss this with your lawyer.
- Shield your children from the details and do not be disparaging about your spouse to them. It will hurt them and your case.

## WHY TAKE THESE STEPS?

You will protect your children.

You will take control of your case.

You will be presenting the best possible case.

You will understand your case.

You will be able to engage more in negotiations.

If your case goes to court, your pro activeness can be demonstrated.

It is likely the case will conclude sooner.

It is likely your case will be more cost effective.

You will feel more in control of your finances after your case is over.

You will be taking control of your future.