

# Getting Organized

by Eva Sachs CFP CDFA

***No matter what process you choose to negotiate your divorce, you need to gather the following information:***

1. Three years of income tax returns including all attachments and notices of assessment
2. Most recent paycheck stubs for both of you
3. Employee benefit/retirement/pension information
4. Life, disability and critical illness insurance policies – group or individual
5. List of all assets held personally & jointly
6. Details regarding investments (recent statements for RRSP and non RRSP accounts)
7. Information regarding your housing expenses including property tax & utilities
8. Mortgage details including rate, term, monthly payment & pre-payment penalties
9. All outstanding loans and debts, including rate, term, monthly payments
10. RESP and children's trust information
11. Wills and powers of attorney
12. Marriage contract
13. Detailed list of your current personal and household expenses
14. List of projected expenses in the future once you're on your own
15. Any other documents that would have a bearing on your financial situation

***Once you have all your data together, it needs to be organized in a manner that is clear and concise, creating your "personal financial statement" which forms the basis of your negotiations.***

***Make sure you're being realistic in how long it will take you to gather this information. It's not easy but you'll be grateful to have the complete picture and be ready when asked for this information.***

***If you can't do this yourself, don't know where to start or if you want a second opinion to be sure you have the correct complete information, contact me.***