

CHECKLIST

SEPARATION UNDER SAME ROOF

- Establish and maintain intent to separate permanently or indefinitely.
- Have separate bedrooms. Remove all of your clothes and personal effects from the room she uses and vice versa. Use separate bathrooms also.
- No romantic or sexual activity.
- Stop wearing wedding rings.
- Each spouse shops for own food, prepares own meals; neither shops for the other as to any categories of items (clothing, other necessities, etc.).
- Do not use the other spouse's food or other purchases.
- Do not eat meals together (exception: holidays or children's birthdays).
- Each spouse is responsible for caring for his or her own space within the home, such as bedroom.
- Each does own laundry.
- Establish separate checking accounts.
- Cease socializing (e.g. do not attend parties, movies, theater, etc. together).
- Do not attend church together.
- Where there are minor children, interact as parents only where strictly necessary from the children's perspective and their well-being; it would be acceptable for the parents to go together to a meeting with a school official relative to problems confronting a particular child, but less appropriate for the parents to ride together and sit together at a child's school play or soccer game.
- Cease gift-giving between spouses for such occasions as birthdays, Christmas, anniversary, Valentine's Day, etc.
- Make known to close associates, relatives, etc. that the parties are maritally separated within the residence, though continuing to reside under the same roof (i.e., tell them you and your spouse are separating and intend to divorce, have moved into separate bedrooms and plan to move into separate homes).

- ❑ Have third party come to the home from time to time so that they personally observe the two spouses separate and distinct living quarters (bedrooms, bathrooms, etc.). (Ideally, the third party would stay for an extended period of time, including spending nights in your home. Ideally, there would be more than one third party who has spent significant time in your home).
- ❑ Utilize separate entrances to residence if feasible.
- ❑ Be prepared to explain reason(s) for effecting separation under same roof (e.g. financial considerations; unavailability of successor residence; to ease children's transition to parental separation; etc.).