



PD Law

THINKING ABOUT SEPARATING?

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Practical thinking

You're struggling in your relationship and have started to think that maybe it might be best to separate from your partner. But you're not sure. Below are some practical considerations that may help you in your thinking.

Counselling: your best first step

Relationships are not easy and there are a lot of factors that impact on them and cause more stress. It is possible, however, to learn skills that help us all communicate and function better within a relationship. There are contact options on the next page.

Plan:

What arrangements would be best for your children.

This could include:

- ✓ accommodation,
- ✓ proximity to school/daycare,
- ✓ after school care, if necessary
- ✓ access to family and friends

Where you'd live and how you'll manage daily commitments

Where you live will impact transport arrangements as well as accessing work and other commitments or appointments, and family members.

Do:

Make a budget

Make a budget that considers your anticipated income and expected spending over the next, say 6 months and going forward.

You could create your budget on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis, depending on your circumstances.

Locate important documents

If you do decide to separate, your lawyer may need to see your financial documents, so make sure these documents are kept somewhere safe yet easy for you to access, perhaps with a trusted friend or family member.

Other important items could include things like your passport, birth and/or marriage certificates, insurance policies, super fund policies, tax returns, and car registration papers.

Get Legal Advice

Even if your separation is friendly and amicable, it is still important to make sure you are fully informed of your rights. Do it before you make decisions which may have a big impact on you or your children.



Contacts

Services offering counselling, valuable information and/or skills in building relationships include:



Relationships Australia (Qld) – offer a range of services including counselling, mediation, family violence prevention.
<http://www.relationships.org.au/what-we-do/services>

Family Relationships Online - Provides families (whether together or separated) with access to information about family relationship issues, ranging from building better relationships to dispute resolution.
<https://www.familyrelationships.gov.au/>

ASIC's MoneySmart – Divorce and separation page - Information on things to consider when separating, including first finance-related steps to take.
<https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/life-events-and-you/>



Family Relationships Advice Line - 1800 050 321

- ✓ A national telephone service established to assist families affected by relationship or separation issues.

Crisis line – 1800RESPECT – 1800 737 732

- ✓ National sexual assault, domestic violence counselling service.

The information in this flyer is provided as general information only and shouldn't be relied upon as complete nor comprehensive legal advice.



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