



CALIFORNIA DIVORCE

Pre-Divorce Document Checklist

Everything to gather before you begin your filing, in the order the California forms ask for it.

10

sections

80

items

FL-140 · FL-142 · FL-150

forms it feeds

Personal identification · Marriage documentation · Financial documents
Property and assets · Inheritance · Insurance · Business · Children
Previous legal actions · Miscellaneous

01 Personal identification

- ☐ Driver's license
- ☐ Passport
- ☐ Social Security card

02 Marriage documentation

- ☐ Marriage certificate
- ☐ Prenuptial or postnuptial agreements
- ☐ The date you married or registered, and the date you separated

03 Financial documents

What the Income and Expense Declaration (FL-150) and your tax disclosure are built from.

- ☐ Pay stubs and employment records. FL-150 asks for the last two months, and says to black out Social Security numbers.
- ☐ Recent tax returns. Keep 3–5 years for reference; FL-140 requires every return filed in the two years before you serve.
- ☐ Documentation of bonuses, tips and employment perks
- ☐ If self-employed: profit and loss statement for the last two years, or the Schedule C from your last federal return
- ☐ Bank statements — checking, savings, CDs
- ☐ Investment account statements — stocks, bonds, mutual funds
- ☐ Retirement account statements — 401(k), IRA, pension plans
- ☐ Your spouse's W-2s or other paycheck information
- ☐ Health savings account statements (HSAs and FSAs)
- ☐ Child care savings account statements
- ☐ Credit card statements
- ☐ Credit reports
- ☐ Loan documents — mortgage, home equity, auto, personal, student
- ☐ Property tax statements
- ☐ Utility bills
- ☐ Cell phone and internet bills
- ☐ Rent or mortgage payment costs
- ☐ Documentation of extraordinary medical expenses
- ☐ Any other income — rental, dividends, interest, trust income, royalties
- ☐ Benefits received — public assistance, unemployment, disability, workers' comp, Social Security, military allowances

- ☐ Spousal or partner support you receive from anyone, including a prior relationship
- ☐ Your monthly budget for living expenses going forward

04 Property and asset documentation

FL-142 names the document it wants beside most of these lines.

- ☐ Deeds for any real estate, with legal description, plus the latest lender's statement for each
- ☐ The cost basis of your home
- ☐ Appraisals for any real estate
- ☐ Vehicle registrations and titles — the form asks for the title document
- ☐ Inventory of safe deposit boxes
- ☐ List of valuable items — collectibles, art, antiques, jewelry — with appraisals or estimated value
- ☐ List of household items and estimated value
- ☐ List of memberships, subscriptions, frequent flyer miles, loyalty programs, ebook and video libraries
- ☐ List of intellectual property such as copyrights
- ☐ Stocks, bonds, securities, mutual funds — certificate or latest statement
- ☐ Latest summary plan document and benefit statement for each retirement plan or pension
- ☐ Latest statement for profit-sharing plans, annuities and IRAs
- ☐ A copy of each unsecured note or account receivable owed to you
- ☐ Cash on hand, and any tax refund owed to you
- ☐ Accounts you may have forgotten — an old 401(k), a dormant savings account, a small brokerage balance
- ☐ Anything held jointly with someone other than your spouse

05 Inheritance-related documents

Property received by gift or inheritance is treated differently from property acquired during the marriage.

- ☐ Trust documents
- ☐ Wills and probate records
- ☐ Records showing anything you owned before the marriage
- ☐ Records showing anything you received by gift or inheritance, and when

06 Insurance policies

- ☐ Health, dental and vision insurance

- ☐ Life insurance — FL-142 asks for the declaration page of each policy
- ☐ Annuity statements
- ☐ Auto insurance
- ☐ Insurance for vehicles like boats and ATVs
- ☐ Homeowner's or renter's insurance

07 Business documents

- ☐ Business tax returns
- ☐ Business registrations
- ☐ Financial statements or profit and loss (P&L) statements
- ☐ The most current K-1 and Schedule C for each partnership or business interest
- ☐ Receipts and expense records
- ☐ Payroll information
- ☐ Patents and trademarks
- ☐ Bank statements
- ☐ Loan documents
- ☐ Any investment, business or income-producing opportunity that has come to you since the date of separation. FL-140 asks for this in writing.

08 Child-related documents

If applicable.

- ☐ Birth certificates of children
- ☐ Medical records if special needs or extraordinary expenses
- ☐ Medical expense records
- ☐ Tuition
- ☐ School records if special needs
- ☐ Child care expense records
- ☐ Child activity expenses — sports, music, dance, tutoring, clubs
- ☐ Children's bank accounts or college savings plan statements

09 Legal documents from previous actions

- ☐ Any previous legal separation for this marriage
- ☐ Prior child custody or child support orders for this marriage
- ☐ Any restraining orders or orders of protection for this marriage
- ☐ Child support orders from other relationships

- ☐ Support arrearages — copies of the orders and the statements

10 Miscellaneous

California is a no-fault state, so conduct generally does not decide whether a divorce is granted. Records of spending still matter where money left the community.

- ☐ Any other contracts or agreements between you and your spouse
- ☐ Documentation of large or unusual transfers, withdrawals or spending — including gambling losses — that may have reduced community property
- ☐ Any documentation you believe may be relevant to marital issues