

# 'TILL DEATH DO US PART Checklist

## Things To Do While Your Both Still Alive and Functional

- 1. Drawing up a will and estate plan is a must for any age, with any amount of assets. Make it legal and keep it updated.
- 2. Share addresses and phone numbers of close friends and family you wish to have contacted in the case of an illness or death. You may even have a few you wish to NOT have notified, it's your choice.
- 3. Keep and share updated lists of usernames and passwords, or leave this information with your attorney.
- 4. Have a fireproof file specific for important documents: Will, birth certificates, social security cards and official statements, marriage certificates, insurance policies, property and vehicle titles and registrations, all banking and investment account information, tax returns, military documents and benefits.
- 5. Know and record your debts and income sources so there are no surprises.
- 6. Discuss organ donation, an awesome way for a life to continue! If death occurs in a hospital, they will take care of everything. If death is imminent and the donor wishes to pass at home, notify your local procurement organization for proper procedure.
- 7. Plan and pre-pay funeral arrangements if possible. Have fun and write your own obituary!
- 8. Get a Living Will and Advanced Directive to provide grateful guidance for your survivors and make sure your wishes for medical and emotional care are known.
- 9. A Durable Power of Attorney and Medical Power of Attorney eliminates delay in making important decisions.
- 10. A roll of masking tape and a black marker can save your family a lot of time and angst. It can be a huge help to mark your belongings (that are not listed in the will) with a name on a piece of tape. This way who know who takes which tchotchke's home.

# shift

DIVORCE GUIDE

## After a Spouse's Death, Sudden or Awaited

- If lucky (or unlucky enough) to have Hospice, let them do what they do best.
- Follow the organ donation plan for the timing of the death.
- Contact the funeral home you were so efficient to have pre-planned or picked, they will guide you as promised!
- Get no less than 15 copies of the death certificate and keep them handy over the next few months. You'll need them for Social Security, Medicare, medical and life insurance companies, retirement benefits and the IRS to start.
- Call in your closest friends or family to contact everyone else on your behalf. If someone offers help, take it!
- Contact your attorney, financial consultant and bank to keep your money flowing.
- Call in the executor if it's not you.
- You can get around to calling your financial consultant and insurance company.
- Seek Grief Counseling, be proactive for your future.