



Family Law Guide

PROTECT. PRESERVE. PLAN.

A Practical Resource For Families Preparing For Divorce

Cover Letter



Divorce is not just a legal event.

It's a deeply personal transition that touches every part of your life — your family, your finances, your future.

At Eggert Law, we understand the complexity, the fear, and the hopes that accompany this season. You deserve more than just representation; you deserve a partner who protects your interests at every turn while helping you build a path forward.

This guide is designed to give you clarity in an uncertain time. It lays out immediate actions to protect yourself, strategies to preserve what you've worked hard to build, and thoughtful plans for creating a future you and your children can thrive in.

You are not alone. With the right steps and the right guidance, you can move through this process with strength and security.

Chris Eggert

Managing Partner

Schedule a Consultation:

<https://tidycal.com/cjeggert/60minutepaid>

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Protect: Safeguarding Your Immediate Well-Being

Divorce can create vulnerabilities — emotional, financial, and even physical. Your first priority is protection.

PHYSICAL SAFETY

If there is any risk to your safety or the safety of your children, physical separation must come first. Secure safe housing immediately — with trusted family, friends, or through professional services if necessary. Your peace of mind and physical security are foundational.

STABILITY FOR CHILDREN

Children need consistency, especially during times of change. Begin establishing a simple, predictable schedule so your children know:

- Who they will be with
- When transitions will happen
- How they will communicate with each parent

The more stable the environment, the better the children will adapt and feel secure.

FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

Opening a separate bank account is not just advisable — it's essential. Ensure you have access to enough funds to support yourself and your children in the short term. If possible, discreetly build a financial cushion before formally initiating divorce proceedings.

CYBER SECURITY

In today's world, digital privacy matters. Immediately change all passwords — email, bank accounts, cloud storage, and social media. Assume that shared devices could have saved passwords or access history. Prioritize securing your communications and finances.



Preserve: Protecting Assets and Information

Preserving key financial and legal information early is critical to a successful divorce process.

DOCUMENT PRESERVATION

Gather and safely store copies of essential records, including:

- Federal and state tax returns for the last 3–5 years
- Recent bank statements for all accounts (individual and joint)
- Pay stubs and employment information
- Medical and dental insurance policies
- Car titles and vehicle registrations
- Mortgage statements and real estate deeds

These documents provide the financial snapshot courts require — and they protect you if any records "go missing" later.

INSURANCE AND BENEFICIARIES

Contact your insurance providers — life, health, auto, homeowner's — and notify them of pending divorce proceedings. Ensure coverage remains in place and begin updating beneficiaries where legally appropriate.

SCHOOL AND CHILDCARE NOTIFICATIONS

Alert your children's schools about any change in custody or emergency contact status. Keeping them informed protects your child's security and well-being during transitions.

COVERING FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Maintain all basic bill payments — utilities, mortgages, insurance — even during separation. Divorce proceedings typically impose an automatic temporary injunction, meaning neither party can cancel insurance, stop paying bills, or transfer assets without court approval.

Protect your credit and financial reputation by keeping essential accounts current until they can be divided legally.

Plan: Building a Strong Future



With immediate protections in place, the next step is intentional planning — both legally and personally.

CREATING A LEGAL STRATEGY

Work with your attorney to define:

- Your goals for the divorce (custody, division of assets, support)
- Areas where negotiation is possible
- Boundaries that must be upheld

Preparing early for discovery — the process where both sides disclose financial and personal information — can significantly strengthen your position.

ASSET PLANNING AND DIVISION

Identify assets that are priorities for you to retain. Also plan realistically for assets you may not receive. This avoids emotional decision-making later and helps you focus on negotiating the terms that matter most.

PARENTING PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Children deserve stability and security. Work proactively to create a detailed parenting plan that addresses:

- Daily and holiday visitation schedules
- Vacation and travel procedures
- School district agreements
- Guidelines for introducing new partners
- Restrictions around exposure to unsafe individuals

When you plan in advance, you control the environment your children grow up in — not the conflict.

SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL PLANNING

If alimony or child support will be requested or owed, start planning now:

- What are your monthly living expenses?
- What are your children's needs, including schooling, healthcare, and activities?
- How will medical, extracurricular, and college expenses be shared?

Negotiating from a well-prepared position ensures fairer and more sustainable support agreements.

CHILDREN'S EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Beyond logistics, think about the emotional and relational health of your children:

- Are there family dynamics that need boundaries for their safety?
- What kind of relationship do you hope they maintain with each parent?
- How can you model respect and stability during this transition?

Our philosophy is simple:

The best-case scenario is two healthy, active, respectful parents — even after divorce. We work with you to protect that vision wherever possible.



You're Not Just Ending a Chapter — You're Building a New Future

The choices you make now will set the tone for the next stage of your life — and your children's lives.

At Eggert Law, we are committed to protecting what matters most, preserving what you've worked for, and planning for a stronger, healthier future. With the right team, the right information, and the right strategy, you can move through this process with dignity, strength, and hope.



A. Emergency Resources

If you are in immediate danger, do not wait. Seek safe shelter and contact the proper authorities immediately. In times of immediate danger or urgent need, these contacts can provide critical support:

STATEWIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS AND SUPPORT CENTERS:

Oklahoma Statewide Safeline:
1-800-522-SAFE (7233)

A 24-hour confidential hotline providing support and resources for domestic violence victims across Oklahoma.

[The Hotline](#)+2[Welcome to Oklahoma's Official Web Site](#)+2[OKDRS](#)+2[Wikipedia](#)

Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS) – Tulsa:

24-Hour Crisis Line: 918-743-5763

Text Support: Text "SAFE" to 207-777 (available daily from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.)
DVIS offers emergency shelter, counseling, legal services, and more for individuals in the Tulsa area.

[DomesticShelters.org](#)+1[dvis.org](#)+1[The Hotline](#)+2[dvis.org](#)+2[DomesticShelters.org](#)+2

Community Crisis Center – Northeast Oklahoma:
24-Hour Hotline: 1-800-400-0883

Provides services including emergency shelter, advocacy, and support in Miami, Grove, Jay, and Vinita.

[getmeout.org](#)+1[Oklaw](#)+1

YWCA Oklahoma City:
24-Hour Crisis Line: 405-917-9922

Offers emergency shelter, counseling, and legal assistance for domestic violence victims in Oklahoma City.

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE:
800-799-7233

LOCAL POLICE OR EMERGENCY SERVICES:
911

CRISIS TEXT LINE:
Text HOME to 741741

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES HOTLINE:

Oklahoma Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline:
1-800-522-3511

This hotline is available 24/7 to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

[cacok.com](#)+4[fcsok.org](#)+4[Welcome to Oklahoma's Official Web Site](#)+4

Online Reporting:
You can submit a report online at
[www.OKHotline.org](#).



B. Financial Document Checklist

Before or immediately after filing for divorce, gather and secure the following documents. Secure both digital and physical copies and store them in a private, safe location.

- Last 3–5 years of personal and business tax returns
- Recent pay stubs (past 3 months minimum)
- Bank account statements (checking, savings, retirement)
- Investment and brokerage account statements
- Mortgage and home equity loan statements
- Vehicle titles and loan documents
- Credit card statements (all open accounts)
- Life insurance policies
- Health insurance cards and policies
- Property deeds or lease agreements
- Utility bills and other recurring expense statements
- Business ownership documents, if applicable

C. Cybersecurity Checklist

Protect your digital footprint quickly and thoroughly by:

- Changing passwords for:
 - Email accounts
 - Bank and investment accounts
 - Cloud storage accounts (Google Drive, iCloud, Dropbox)
 - Social media profiles
- Setting up two-factor authentication wherever possible
- Logging out of all devices linked to shared accounts
- Disabling location-sharing features on phones and apps
- Reviewing and securing shared mobile plan access
- Creating a new personal email account if privacy concerns exist



D. Asset Protection Quick Reference

Understanding how to safeguard your assets starts here:

- Do not move or hide money, valuables, or property without attorney advice.
- Keep detailed records of your monthly spending and incoming funds.
- Maintain all insurance coverage until court orders otherwise.
- Refrain from making large purchases or incurring new debts during divorce proceedings.
- Start an inventory of significant personal belongings (photos or video documentation recommended).
- Document ownership and value of marital and non-marital property.

E. Parenting Plan Preparation Topics

When building a sustainable parenting plan, consider these key issues:

- Regular custody and visitation schedules
- Holiday and special event scheduling (birthdays, vacations, religious holidays)
- Guidelines for introducing significant others to children
- Medical decision-making authority
- Educational decision-making authority (school selection, extracurriculars)
- Communication methods between parents (email, parenting apps, etc.)
- Relocation procedures and notice requirements
- Handling disputes through mediation or other agreed-upon processes
- Emergency contact and healthcare decision-making protocols

Planning these details now reduces conflict and confusion later.