

CHECKLIST
SEPARATION UNDER SAME ROOF

- Establishment and maintenance of intent to separate permanently or indefinitely.
- Separate bedrooms.
- No romantic or sexual intimacy.
- 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; e.g., 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.
- Have a third party come to the home from time to time to personally observe the two spouses' separate and distinct living quarters (bedrooms, bathrooms, etc.).
- 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.).