

How to use: Make a copy of this document, save it to your local drive and amend as required.

Agenda for first meeting with my ex - focussing on the short term practicalities

1. Is it affordable for one of us to move out? Who should move out and where will they move to? If it's not affordable to move out at the moment, can we agree to some ground rules for living together now we're separated?
2. What are our key household and living expenses, and how are we going to cover them in this interim period from now until we've reached a final agreement about our financial separation?
3. List our joint accounts and agree how we're going to deal with each of them. If one of the joint accounts pays for key household expenses, how will that account be funded?
4. List any debts that we both have and agree how repayments will be met between now and the time when we've reached an overall agreement about our financial separation. If I need to, remind my ex that missed payments can impact credit ratings. It's in both of our interests to preserve our respective credit ratings going forwards - we're both likely to need credit to set ourselves up after the divorce (whether that's a credit check for a new rental property, a mortgage or something else).
5. Can we agree to approach discussions about finances in a particular way? The more cooperative and transparent we are with each other, the cheaper, calmer and quicker the process of reaching an overall financial agreement is likely to be.

If you have children, you'll also need to talk about:

1. What to tell the children and when.
2. How to manage the short term arrangements for the children.
3. Who else we need to tell to make sure the children get the support they deserve.

There are lots of resources in your Children Space to help you to think about these issues, as well as help with the next things you'll need to do to manage their arrangements and support them through this period of transition.