



# Law Office of Nick M. Frisco

## Bronx Divorce & Family Court Lawyer

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- 1. Keep an expense journal** - Keep a journal of all expenses with receipts, especially your children's expenses
- 2. Put your papers in order** - Put your divorce papers in order. Keep copies of important financial documents in a secure place. Financial papers, include tax returns, insurance policies and bank statements, investment accounts, salaries and benefit programs.
- 3. Keep your documents secure** - Make sure that your valuable documents are stored in a safe place and obtain a safe address for your personal mail.
- 4. Open a bank account in your name** - Open a new bank account in your name at a bank where your spouse does not do business. Start putting away as much money as possible, on a regular basis. Later on, when you separate, you will need to have available funds to retain a divorce attorney and to pay for your day to day living expenses in case your spouse refuses to pay for your support. If your spouse withholds financial support, it will place a financial burden on you until an application for temporary support and maintenance can be heard and decided by the court.
- 5. Don't quit your job** - Do not quit or leave your job if you are employed. It is important to maintain and secure your financial independence and earn enough to maintain assets such as your home.
- 6. Establish credit** - Try to establish personal credit relationships (gasoline credit cards, department stores and national credit card companies such as Visa, Master Card, etc.)
- 7. Keep inheritances separate** - Keep all inheritances separate from the marital estate. Do not put an inheritance into joint names with your spouse and do not use your inheritance money to pay for family expenses or purchases or to pay down debts.
- 8. Save receipts** - While still married and living together with your spouse, it is advisable to save all of the receipts for major purchases and prepare an inventory of all of the property and assets acquired during the marriage.
- 9. Have access to your car** - Make sure that your car is in good working condition and that it is titled jointly or preferably in your sole name.
- 10. Do not speak to your spouse before consulting with an experienced divorce lawyer!**