



GO DIVORCE CLINIC[®]
THE END OF THE UGLY DIVORCE

Organizing Property and Debt

Start With What Exists

The first job is organizational. Make sure both spouses have identified all forms of assets and debts that need to be addressed in the divorce. Here are some of the most common ones we see:

- Residential and commercial real property
- Vehicles
- Bank and cash accounts
- Retirement savings plans and pension accounts
- Investment accounts and digital currency
- Business interests
- Household and high-value personal property
- Mortgages and other property-related loans
- Vehicle loans
- Credit cards
- Tax obligations

Identification And Allocation

The GDC Portal does not determine whether property or debt is community property, separate property, or some combination of the two. GDC also does not determine the value of an asset, decide what either spouse should receive, or recommend how a disputed asset or debt should be divided.

If you and your spouse disagree about ownership, legal characterization, valuation, reimbursement, or another question that requires legal or professional analysis, that issue may need to be resolved outside the Portal before you can accurately record an agreement.

Know What You Have Actually Agreed To

Once the two of you have identified the relevant assets and debts, the next question is practical: what have you actually agreed will happen to each item?

For some property, the answer may be straightforward. One spouse may keep an item; an account may be divided according to an agreement the spouses have reached; a debt may be assigned to one spouse; or property may be sold. Other property or liabilities may require additional steps before the parties can clearly describe the agreement they have reached.



Once entered, GDC records the decisions you make.

Some Assets May Require Outside Help

Certain financial issues can involve considerations beyond what the couple is comfortable resolving on their own. Retirement and pension plans, business interests, complicated real estate or title issues, significant tax questions, trusts, or disputed property can sometimes require information or assistance from an appropriate outside professional.

GDC does not determine which professional service or legal mechanism your circumstances require. If the two of you cannot confidently reach and describe your own agreement, you may seek independent legal, tax, financial, retirement-plan, real-estate, or other professional assistance as appropriate.

Timely Division of Your Estate

There is a practical reality worth remembering: prolonged disagreement over your marital estate can consume some of the same money, time, and energy the spouses are trying to preserve as they establish separate lives.

That does not mean either spouse should agree to something they do not understand or cannot accept. It means that clarity matters. Know what remains unresolved. If you need outside help to move through an issue, make a plan to get it rather than allowing the issue to remain unresolved indefinitely.

The decisions remain yours. GDC provides the structure for recording them.

GDC is not a law firm and does not provide legal advice. This resource is general educational information for GDC Portal users and is not a recommendation concerning ownership, classification, valuation, or division of property or debt in an individual case.