# 2023 · WHAT ISSUES SHOULD I CONSIDER WHEN GETTING MARRIED?



CASH FLOW ISSUES	YES	NO
<ul> <li>As a couple, do you need to discuss financial topics?</li> <li>If so, consider the following:         <ul> <li>Your own individual career and personal goals.</li> <li>The amount you are both comfortable saving for the future and the amount you are comfortable spending now.</li> <li>The issues that may cause money-related stress between you.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
Will your cash flow needs change? If so, consider developing a new income and expense plan.		
Do you need to adjust how much you are saving?		
Do you need to identify and assign financial responsibilities (e.g., oversight and management of cash flow, accounts, investments, etc.)?		
Do you plan to combine finances?		
Do you and your spouse use credit cards?  If so, consider which card provides the best benefits (features, points, etc.) and the potential benefits of consolidating the number of cards.		
ASSET & DEBT ISSUES	YES	NO
ASSET O DEBT 1330E3	123	
> Have your investment goals or risk tolerance for any of your accounts changed as a result of the marriage?		
Do you maintain separate accounts (e.g., investments, checking, saving)?  If so, consider the benefits of opening joint accounts.		

Do you or your spouse have any substantial debts?

■ Pay down debts with the highest interest rates first.

■ Consolidate debts when beneficial. (continue on next column)

If so, consider the following:

ASSET & DEBT ISSUES (CONTINUED)	YES	NO
Do you need to determine the size of your emergency fund?		
Are there credit history issues? If so, consider:		
<ul> <li>Pulling annual credit reports to understand where the issues arise.</li> <li>Developing a plan to rebuild credit history.</li> <li>Maintaining joint credit cards, to help build the credit history of the spouse with poor credit.</li> </ul>		
INSURANCE PLANNING ISSUES	YES	NO
Are you each currently covered by your respective employer's health insurance?  If so, consider the following:  One health plan may be more advantageous than the other.  There is a limited window to enroll after a qualifying event.  For the Health Insurance Marketplace, you have 60 days after your marriage to enroll according to the special enrollment period rules.  If participating in a Health Savings Account, family plans offer higher contribution levels than individual plans.		
Has there been a change to the amount of life/disability coverage you need?		
Do you need to update homeowners or renters insurance?  If so, consider adding your spouse to the policy and updating the coverage in light of the combined value of your belongings, including jewelry.		
Do you and your spouse own vehicles?  If so, consider reviewing auto insurance policies to see if there can be a cost savings from consolidating.		

### 2023 · WHAT ISSUES SHOULD I CONSIDER WHEN GETTING MARRIED?



TAX PLANNING ISSUES	YES	NO
Do you need to review your filing status?  If so, MFJ offers more deductions than MFS and will result in lower tax liability in most cases. MFS can make sense in certain situations, such as business owners attempting to qualify for the QBI deduction, or in the case of certain student loans.		
Do you need to review and update tax withholdings/estimates?		
> Do either of you have tax loss carryforwards?  If so, consider how to best utilize such carryforwards in the future.		
Does your new filing status and Adjusted Gross Income impact your ability to contribute to tax-advantaged accounts?		
LONG-TERM PLANNING ISSUES	YES	NO
Are you planning on making any major expenditures in the near future (such as buying a home, home improvements, or education)?  If so, consider developing a plan now to ensure adequate funding.		
Do you need to review or compare goals as a result of the marriage?		

OTHER ISSUES	YES	NO
<ul> <li>Were you or your spouse previously married?         If so, consider the following:         <ul> <li>Note any claim an ex-spouse may have on assets.</li> <li>If there are support obligations, consider how they will impact cash flow.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Note the impact of remarriage on Social Security benefits.</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Do you or your spouse have children from a previous marriage? If so, consider the following:         <ul> <li>Carefully structure your estate plan to balance the interests of and protect your spouse and your collective children.</li> <li>A prenuptial agreement is likely advisable.</li> <li>Plan how to fairly fund the needs of minor children (e.g., education funding) and coordinate with agreements and obligations of ex-spouses.</li> <li>If the children from the previous marriage are minors and will be attending college soon, financial aid for FAFSA schools will be based on the income and assets of the custodial parent.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
Are you or your spouse planning to change names?  If so, be sure to take all proper legal steps, and make global updates (Social Security, driver's license, passport, financial accounts, etc.).		
Are there state-specific issues that should be considered, such as living in a community property state?		

Do your beneficiary designations need to be reviewed and

possibly updated?

## **WORTHEN FINANCIAL ADVISORS**



### We help you make smart decisions about money

▼

Advisory services are offered through Worthen Financial Advisors; an investment advisor firm domiciled in the State of Texas. The presence of this website on the Internet shall not be directly or indirectly interpreted as a solicitation of investment advisory services to persons of another jurisdiction unless otherwise permitted by statute.

Follow-up or individualized responses to consumers in a particular state by our firm in the rendering of personalized investment advice for compensation shall not be made without our first complying with jurisdiction requirements or pursuant an applicable state exemption.

For information concerning the status or disciplinary history of a broker-dealer, investment advisor, or their representatives, a consumer should contact their state securities administrator.

#### Angela Johnson, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™

104 Melody Lane Friendswood, TX 77546 support@worthenadvisors.com | 832-895-1188 | WorthenAdvisors.com