

Period of readjustment



Two sofas, five TVs and a few extra kids running around the house aren't the only things you may have to adjust to when you decide to remarry. You and your new spouse also will have to work out a number of financial and estate planning issues. And the sooner you get started, the better — ideally, before you tie the knot.

Who's got what?

Sharing financial information — good and bad — is important for every couple contemplating marriage. But, it's absolutely essential during remarriage, when each spouse's finances may be complicated by divorce decrees and child support and alimony arrangements. Both of you should have a clear picture of each other's financial obligations. Once you've accomplished this, you'll be ready to discuss how you'll handle your joint financial issues going forward, like buying a home and saving for retirement.

College for how many?

If you or your new spouse has kids, future college expenses may be an important topic of conversation. Will you each take responsibility for funding your biological children's college costs separately or share the expenses? What contributions are expected from the other parent(s)? Keep in mind that household income will be a factor in determining financial aid.

Look at life insurance

Remarriage may signal the need for a life insurance review. You'll want to determine whether your current coverage is adequate for your new situation and review and update the beneficiary designations on your policies.

Estate planning gets more complicated

Revising your will should be one of your priorities. But don't stop there. Also check the beneficiary designations on your employer-sponsored retirement plans and individual retirement accounts and update them as necessary.

It will be important for you to discuss your estate planning goals with each other and your professional advisors. You may decide that you should establish one or more trusts, especially if children are involved. Trusts are useful and flexible planning tools that can help you provide for your surviving spouse and children and accomplish other objectives. Your financial professional can explain more about trusts and the role they can play in estate planning.

Begin your new life by taking the right steps to ensure your family's financial security.

For further information on financial planning

We invite you to visit mybmoreirement.com or call the My BMO Retirement Line at **1-800-858-3829**.