Take photos of your valuables.

- Jewelry
- Furniture
- Household items
- Antiques
- Collectibles
- Other valuables

Establish a solid support system.

Gather your closest friends and family who will support you and remain positive throughout the process. Additionally, you may want to consider:

- A therapist or counselor for you and your children.
- A real estate agent if you are planning on selling your home.

Gather essential information & files

- Driver’s license.
- Tax returns.
- Social security card.
- Financial statements.
- Bank statements.
- Brokerage statements.
- Loan applications and/or loan documents.
- Credit card statements.
- Deeds to any real property.
- Tax-assessed valuations.
- Real estate appraisals
- Legal name.
- Date of birth and birth certificate.
- Address, phone number, and email.
- Health insurance information.
- Birth certificate.
- Marriage date and marriage certificate.
- Employer’s name.
- Employer’s address, phone number, and email.
- Vehicle information (model, make, year).

Make sure you have all this information available for both you and your spouse. The applicable personal information should also be available for children.
Get copies of income information

- Base salary.
- Investment income.
- Social security income.
- Unemployment insurance.
- Worker’s compensation.
- Personal injury.

Create a list of your assets

- Type of property.
- The address.
- The title holder.
- Purchase price.
- Outstanding mortgage amount.
- Current assessed value.
- Fair market value.
- Date of the last assessment.

If you have investment accounts, keep copies of IRA/Roth IRA documents, annuities documents, workplace savings plan documents, stock options, 529 documents, stock certificates, bonds, CDs, mutual funds, and money market funds.

Keep track of your spendings

- Rent/mortgage payments
- Maintenance costs.
- Homeowner’s/renter’s insurance.
- HOA fees.
- Real estate taxes.
- Personal care.
- Subscriptions.
- Clothing.
- Cleaning.
- Entertainment.
- Groceries and food.
- Gas costs.
- Utilities.
- Childcare.
- Education expenses.
- Extracurricular expenses.
- Pet care.