



Is Your Trial Separation on the Right Path? **10 Questions to Ask Yourself**

Taking steps to define and structure your separation can help you avoid what may be unnecessary emotional turmoil, as well as ease the anxieties of the non-initiating spouse.

Here are 10 questions to ask yourself to start your separation off on the right path.

1. **Who is going to move out? When and where?** Bear in mind that during a trial separation, in many states, you are still legally married and the rules of property ownership remain the same.
2. **How and when will the moving-out spouse remove their things, and what will they take?**
3. **How and when can the moving-out spouse access the marital home?**
4. **How will the new residence be financed (rented or purchased)? What about furniture?**
5. **When and what are you going to tell your children, their teachers, your family, your friends?**
6. **Will you commit to counseling as a couple?**
7. **What are your arrangements to secure financial and legal advice?**
8. **Where are the children staying?** Consider holidays, vacations, and other occasions when you may wish to take the children out of town.
9. **Who will handle bill paying? What about jointly held credit cards and bank accounts?**
10. **How will you be communicating with each other and how often?**

Now what?

Your next step can depend on many things.
Please contact me to discuss any questions you may have.

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