Suggestions for Women Contemplating Divorce

**Short-Term Goals**

1. Start saving money now.
2. Start keeping a journal of any marital misconduct with dates and times. Lock these up.
3. Open a savings and checking account in your name. Consider using a different bank or credit union than where you have accounts with your spouse.
4. Establish credit in your own name.
5. Consider opening a safe deposit box in your own name to keep documents or journals.
6. Do some detective work. Find and make copies of all important documents including the last three years tax returns.
7. To get direction, make an appointment with an attorney for information and evaluation on your specific case. Bring your documents!
8. Investigate all your assets, determine their value and consider whether your spouse may have any hidden assets.
9. Evaluate where you will live. If you will be moving, check out the housing market and rentals to determine costs.
10. Arrange for the car to be in top working order.
11. Schedule your dental work and medical checkup before leaving, for both you and the children.
12. Renovate and renew your wardrobe for work.
13. Injunction to prevent liquidation of 401k or stock options, etc.

**Long-term goals**

1. Evaluate your present financial condition and job situation.
2. Draw up a mock budget of what it will cost you to live separately.
3. With input from an attorney, figure out approximate income from spousal support and child support.
4. Calculate your separate income.
5. Set goals for your career future and start taking steps toward that end.