

For ALL Men & Women Who are Planning to Get Married

Complete this TOGETHER Before you Marry

This is an unsolicited note we received from a woman:

*“The Due Diligence Checklist is truly amazing. I have downloaded this and distributed amongst my friends for discussion.....I wish this sort of thing had been available to me when deciding whether or not to get married. The chat with the vicar didn't really hit the spot and many issues just didn't get discussed (and I mean after the marriage too). Consequently that relationship failed over wanting children. As a single mum now, I shall be using the DCL as part of my decision making process if I start dating again, and I shall urge my children to do the same when the time comes”. **Melanie Coombs***

Due Diligence Checklist

The Due Diligence Checklist below has been compiled to help men **and** women make better informed decisions before they get married. Marrying the wrong person can be disastrous for both parties. When there are children involved, it can be far worse. With 57% of marriages in Britain and 52% of marriages in the United States ending in divorce, it has never been so important to ensure that all parties enter into marriage fully aware of who they are marrying and what expectations their partner's have about marriage.

Due diligence is a well-known process from the world of business. When someone is looking to buy a business, he or she would conduct 'due diligence' about that business. Due diligence is research to make sure that the existing owners of the business are telling the truth about **all** aspects of that business. If someone is paying millions for a business – they don't want any unpleasant surprises after the sale has been concluded. In the same way that the owner of a business has a variety of legal obligations and responsibilities, married men and women are governed by a set of laws with far-reaching consequences.

It is the responsibility of anyone purchasing a business to conduct 'due diligence' or run the real risk of 'losing your shirt'. As unromantic as it might appear, conducting due diligence about your relationship and your partner is incredibly useful.

If your partner has asked that you both fill out a 'his' or 'hers' due diligence checklist, it is a sign that he or she is serious about wanting to be married to you and is demonstrating a high degree of responsibility to you and to themselves. They should be applauded for taking your relationship so seriously.

There are two sets of questions; one for the male and one for the female. For same sex marriages, choose the most appropriate set of documents for your circumstances.

Take your time going through the questions. When you have both finished, please sign your own document (make a copy if you wish) and exchange the original with your partner.

Study what your partner has written. Has it set off any alarm bells? Listen to your instinct. Pre-marital nerves are normal and to be expected – just because you have an attack of nerves certainly isn't enough to not go ahead with getting married – but nor is it sensible to go ahead by 'hoping for the best'. That really is a recipe for future disaster.

If you have serious reservations about what you have learned about your partner (or how you have chosen to interpret it), the least you must do is talk to them about your concerns. The objective needs to be clarification not criticism. If you don't feel that you can talk to your partner about what you are thinking or feeling – that in itself is a huge alarm bell. If you are afraid of how he or she will react. That is an even louder alarm.

Please do not ignore these signals.

Respecting the confidentiality of what your partner shares in the Due Diligence Checklist is important. Therefore do not show the document to any third party, but you are certainly within your rights to seek the views and opinions of people you trust. Talk over your concerns with others. Give them FULL permission to tell you what they think. Listen to what different people have to say.

Speak to just about any divorced man or woman and they will almost certainly tell you that post-divorce, at least one person has told them *"I have to say, I had reservations about whether your marriage would work – but didn't say anything because I didn't want to 'spoil' your day?!!"*

If after you have both completed the checklist you are both certain that marrying each other is the right thing to do – have a wonderful life together.

Please note;

No liability is taken by the author of this document for any errors or anything that arises out of the completion of this document by any person.

- In particular, do you use or have you ever used tranquilisers or antidepressants? If so, what were the circumstances?
- Do you have or have you ever had compulsive or obsessive behaviours? If so, what and when?
- Were you ever abused as a child? Mildly, moderately or severely? By whom?
- Have you at any time received professional counseling or therapy for that abuse?
- How successful was this for you?
- What history of mental illness is there in your family?
- In particular, have you suffered or do you suffer from clinical depression, schizophrenia or bipolar disorder?

- Have you ever been diagnosed with any other personality disorders? If so, which ones? What treatment have you received?
- Have you ever threatened or attempted suicide? If so, what were the circumstances?
- Have you ever had an eating disorder such as anorexia or bulimia?
- What treatment did you receive?
- What other therapy have you ever received? How did it help you?

Drugs and alcohol

- What are your views on the use of recreational drugs?
- What personal experience do you have of recreational drugs?
- Have friends, family or work colleagues ever tried to tell you that you may have a drink or substance abuse problem?

- If so, how did you react?

Sexual health

- Have you ever contracted an STD (sexually transmitted disease)?

- If so, what and when?

- Have you ever had an Aids/HIV test? Why?

- Are you HIV-Positive?

Legal

- Have you ever used an alias or a false name? If so, why?

- Have you ever been cautioned by the police? If so, what for?

- Have you ever been arrested? For what?

- Do you have a criminal record? For what?

- Has a family member, partner or friend ever threatened or actually taken legal action against you for any reason?

- Have you ever been sued by anyone? What were the circumstances and the outcomes?

- Have you ever threatened to call the police to 'get back' at someone?

- Have you ever threatened to harm someone in any other way?

- Have you ever made allegations of sexual or physical violence against a previous girlfriend or wife?

- If so, what were the circumstances?

- In particular, have you ever been reported or arrested for violence against women?

- If so, what were the circumstances?

- Have you ever deliberately harmed yourself in any way?

Financial

- How financially responsible would you say you are?

- How financially irresponsible are you?

- How many credit, debit or charge cards do you have?

- How many store cards do you have?

- How much credit card debt do you have?

- What other debts do you have?

- How long have you had this debt?

- What are you doing to pay off whatever debts you have?

- Have you ever borrowed money from friends, partners or family members?
- Did you repay them all and in full?
- How important is it to you to repay all your debts quickly?
- Have you ever been taken to court for the non-payment of debts?
- Have bailiffs ever attempted to recover money from you? What were the circumstances?
- Have any courts ever made financial judgments against you?
- Have you ever been declared bankrupt? If so, when?

Emotions, attitudes and values

- What have you ever done that you wish you hadn't?

- What and who do you hate? And why?
- When was the last time you felt really happy?
- What would make you happier? Why?
- What do you most like about your friends?
- What is it that you most want to improve about yourself?
- How often are you “short” or “prickly” with strangers?
- In what circumstances do you believe that treating strangers badly is appropriate?
- Who has hurt you? What did you do about it?
- If you had your time over again what would you do differently in your life and why?

- What are your biggest regrets?
- How do you cope with not getting what you want?
- When do you believe it is acceptable to criticise others?
- How important is honesty and trust to you? Why?
- How do you consistently prove your own honesty and trustworthiness?
- How often do you change your mind when you make promises?
- How much do you care about what other people think of you?
- How responsible are you for your own actions and behavior?
- Have you ever stalked anyone? If so, what were the circumstances?

Past relationships

- What type of people have you tended to attract in the past?

- How and why have most of your past relationships ended?

- When you think of failed relationships you've had, what part did you play in their break-up?

- With how many former lovers are you still friends?

- In what ways have you taken revenge against a former lover?

- In what ways have you used your sexuality to get what you want from past relationships?

- What does 'commitment' mean to you in a relationship?

- How do you usually sort out relationship problems?

- In what circumstances is it acceptable to put someone down or criticise them in private or in public?
- How do you feel about your partner having just a friendship with a former lover?
- When things are not working in a relationship, do you try to stay together? If so, why?
- In what circumstances do you walk away from a relationship?
- On average, how much are you the problem and how much are you the solution when you have had disagreements with any of your ex-partners?
- How many times have you been engaged to be married, but did not marry? What went wrong?
- Have any former partners suffered from depression and attempted or committed suicide?
- How often have you been jealous?
- How often has your jealousy been totally unfounded?

- How many times have you cheated on previous partners?
- Have you ever secretly accessed a partner's e-mails or cell phone to read private messages?
- Have you ever rifled through a partner's private documents?
- When would you find it acceptable to lie to a partner?
- Have you ever read someone's private diary or journal? If 'yes', why do you believe it was justified?
- How often have you felt neglected in a relationship?
- How 'needy' would you say you are?
- If you have ever lived with someone before, has your partner ever thrown you out? What were the reasons?
- If that person was asked the above question, would they say the same? If not, why not?

Marriage and family

- What does the institution of marriage mean to you?

- How much do you want to be married? Why?

- What do you believe marriage would contribute to your life?

- What are you prepared to give up in order to be married? And how do you feel about that?

- How important is monogamy to you? Why?

Future life together

- How important is having children to you?

- As specifically as possible, why do you want children?

- What would children add to *our* lives together?

- What do you want less of from your partner?

- What do you believe your partner gets from your relationship?

- What do you contribute to the relationship?

I, the undersigned declare that I have been truthful in answering all of the questions of this Due Diligence Checklist.

Name..... Signature.....

Date.....

To be Completed by a Female – Private and Confidential

Personal information

- Full name
- Any aliases used
- Date of birth
- Place of birth

Family

- How would you describe your relationship with your mother, father, brothers and sisters?

- How would you describe your parents' relationship?

- How happily married are/were they?

- How has that affected your own views about marriage?

Medical

- Are you or have you ever been on any mood-altering medication? If so, what and when?

- In particular, do you use or have you ever used tranquilisers or antidepressants? If so, what were the circumstances?
- Do you have or have you ever had compulsive or obsessive behaviours? If so, what and when?
- Were you ever abused as a child? Mildly, moderately or severely? By whom?
- Have you at any time received professional counseling or therapy for that abuse?
- How successful was this for you?
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- Have you ever been sued by anyone? What were the circumstances and the outcomes?

- Have you ever threatened to call the police to 'get back' at someone?

- Have you ever threatened to harm someone in any other way?

- Have you ever made allegations of sexual or physical violence against a previous boyfriend or husband?

- If so, what were the circumstances?

- In particular, have you ever been reported or arrested for violence against men?

- If so, what were the circumstances?

- Have you ever deliberately harmed yourself in any way?

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- If I asked that person, would they say the same? If not, why not?

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Future life together

- How important is having children to you?

- As specifically as possible, why do you want children?

- What would children add to *our* lives together?

- How would you define the role of a father?
- If your husband went out to work and you chose to stay at home, perhaps to look after the children, how would you expect your husband to contribute to the marriage?
- How demeaning is the idea of looking after a marital home if your husband was the person who went out to work?
- How would you want to divide domestic labour in a marriage?
- What needs to happen to ensure that you don't ever *feel* as though you're being taken advantage of by your husband?
- How much might you resent putting your career on hold in order to have children?
- If you had children, how much would you want to continue working? Why?
- If you had a choice of career or children, what would it be and why?

- What would you do if you discovered you were pregnant today?

- How would you expect your partner to respond?

You and me

- Why do you want to be with your partner?

- What do you want more of from your partner?

- What do you want less of from your partner?

- What do you believe your partner gets from your relationship?

- What do you contribute to the relationship?

I, the undersigned declare that I have been truthful in answering all of the questions of this Due Diligence Checklist.

Name..... Signature.....

Date.....

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It is not possible for the author to respond to all emails.

About Roy Sheppard

Roy is a former BBC radio and television reporter and presenter in the UK.

He is a specialist speaker on the subject of relationships. He is also an acclaimed conference moderator and corporate communications consultant. His many global clients include; BT, BAT, HP, ICSC, KPMG, the City of Lausanne/International Olympic Committee, Linklaters, Lovells, Philips Healthcare, and Symantec. www.WorldClassModerator.com.

Roy has interviewed many world leaders including; Nobel prize winner and president of South Africa FW de Klerk, German Chancellor Gerhardt Schroeder, Spanish President José Maria Aznar and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

Roy is the author of numerous books including; "The DJ's Handbook" (a broadcasting textbook for Cassells), "Press Pause on Your Life" (HarperCollins) "Your Personal Survival Guide to the 21st Century", "Rapid Result Referrals" and "Meet Greet & Prosper".

The Due Diligence Checklist came about as a concept during research for a book on how to spot a dangerous woman. "Venus: The Dark Side" was co-authored with Mary T Cleary of www.Amen.ie. Book website www.VenusTheDarkSide.com. In America, the same book has the title "That Bitch: Protect Yourself Against Women with Malicious Intent". www.ThatBitchBook.com

Roy is also the presenter of 'The Dangerous Women's Channel' on YouTube. Visit: www.YouTube.com/thedangerouswomen

