

MODULE 3: MONEY SYSTEMS & MODES OF OPERATION

Tools & Worksheets

TOOL 1: MODE OF OPERATION DECISION WORKSHEET

Step 1: Understand the Three Modes

FULL JOINT

All income → one joint account → all expenses paid from joint
Maximum transparency, requires high trust

HYBRID

Most income → joint account for bills
Small personal accounts for individual spending
Balances transparency with autonomy

SEPARATE

Individual accounts, split bills proportionally
Lower transparency, can create scorekeeping

Step 2: Our Current System

- Full Joint
- Hybrid
- Separate

Step 3: Issues with Current System

Step 4: Our Decision Moving Forward

- Keep current system
- Move to Full Joint
- Move to Hybrid
- Transition timeline:

TOOL 2: BILL SPLITTING ANALYSIS

Step 1: Current Bill Splitting Method

- 50/50 split regardless of income
- Proportional to income (fair split)
- One person pays all bills
- Ad hoc - whoever has money pays
- No splitting - all from joint account

Step 2: Problems with Current Method

- Creates scorekeeping ('I paid more')
- Causes resentment
- Complicated to track
- Doesn't feel like partnership
- One person always feels unfair

Step 3: Calculate Proportional Split (if needed)

Husband income: \$ _____

Wife income: \$ _____

Total income: \$ _____

Husband percentage: _____% (his income \div total) _____

Wife percentage: _____% (her income \div total) _____

Total monthly bills: \$ _____

Husband pays: \$ _____ (his % \times total bills) _____

Wife pays: \$ _____ (her % \times total bills) _____

Step 4: Our Solution

- Stop splitting - move all to joint account
- Use proportional split calculated above
- Keep 50/50 but eliminate scorekeeping attitude

TOOL 3: ACCOUNT NAMES CHECKLIST

Step 1: Current Account Ownership

List all accounts and whose name(s) are on them:

1. Account: _____
Names on account: _____
2. Account: _____
Names on account: _____
3. Account: _____
Names on account: _____
4. Account: _____
Names on account: _____
5. Account: _____
Names on account: _____
6. Account: _____
Names on account: _____
7. Account: _____
Names on account: _____

Step 2: Accounts Needing Both Names

- Primary checking account
- Savings/emergency fund
- Joint credit cards
- Investment accounts
- Retirement accounts (beneficiary designation)

Step 3: Action Plan

- Add spouse's name to checking account
Deadline: _____
- Add spouse's name to savings account
Deadline: _____
- Update beneficiaries on retirement accounts
Deadline: _____
- Apply for joint credit card
Deadline: _____
- Set up joint online banking access
Deadline: _____