Prepare for the Future

No one ever plans to be sick or disabled, or to have a relationship end. But planning for the future can make all the difference in an emergency, an emotionally difficult time, and at the end-of-life. Being prepared and having important documents in a single place can give you, your partner, and your leather family, peace of mind, help ensure your wishes are honored, and ease the burden on your loved ones. This is true for both the Dominant and the one serving.

This list is quite exhaustive, but it's easy to at start, and build up as you go along

1. Plan for your estate and finances.
2. Put your important papers and copies of legal documents in one place. You can set up a file, put everything in a desk or dresser drawer, list the info and location of papers in a notebook, or copy them online, & tell someone you trust where to find them.
3. Talk to your loved ones and a doctor about advance care planning.
4. If needed, give permission in advance for your doctors, your lawyer, your insurance provider, a credit card company, or your bank to talk with your partner and/or caregiver if you can't. You may need to sign and return a form.
5. Review your plans regularly. It's important to review your plans once a year and when any major life event occurs, like a divorce, move, or major change in your health.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Personal information

- Full legal name
- Social Security number
- Legal residence
- Date and place of birth
- Names and addresses of parents, siblings, spouse, children
- Location of birth and death certificates and certificates of marriage, divorce, citizenship, and adoption
- If not retired, Employers and dates of employment
- Any important education and any military records
- Names and phone numbers of religious contacts
- Memberships in groups and awards or titles received
- Names and phone numbers of close friends, doctors, lawyers, financial advisors

- If you have a pet, the name and address of your veterinarian
- Scene name, and what social media you have accounts with

Financial information

- Sources of income and assets (wages, investments, pension, IRAs, 401(k)s, interest, alimony, loan repayment, investment income, stocks, bonds, property, etc.) and contact information for those providing this income
- Insurance information (life, long-term care, home, car) with policy numbers and agents' names and phone numbers
- Names of your banks and account numbers (checking, savings, credit union)
- Copy of most recent income tax return
- Location of most up-to-date will with an original signature
- Liabilities, including property tax — what is owed, to whom, and when payments are due
- Mortgages and debts — how and when they are paid
- If you own a home, location of original deed of trust
- Car title and registration
- Credit and debit card names and numbers
- Location of safe deposit box and key
- If needed, a durable power of attorney for finances

Health information

- Current prescriptions (be sure to update this regularly)
- Medicare and Medicaid records
- Living will, which tells doctors how you want to be treated if you cannot make your own decisions about treatment
- Advance directives for health care
- Durable power of attorney for health care, if needed
- Copies of any medical orders or forms (for example, a do-not-resuscitate order)
- Health insurance information with policy and phone numbers

End of Life Information

- A will
- If you wish, a living trust
- Funeral arrangements
- Organ donation