
Unique expertise to support your needs

Meet Josh Sankes, Vice President, Investments and Certified Divorce Financial Analyst



When a divorce is on the horizon, making the right financial decisions is critical. However, all too often a lack of financial knowledge drives individuals to agree to a settlement they may not fully understand or may even regret in the future.

For over a decade, I have had the pleasure of working closely with individuals to address their holistic financial planning needs. After working with several clients who were in the process of getting or had been divorced, I witnessed and experienced firsthand how the proceedings – and more specifically the decisions made when determining their settlements – had a significant effect upon their financial well-being.

In 2012, I became a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst (CDFA) so I could better address the specific challenges faced by those undergoing this significant transition in their lives. Since then, I have continued to work with numerous individuals to help them throughout the process – and afterward in the pursuit of their long-term goals and financial confidence.

As a CDFA I am specifically trained in the financial challenges of divorce and help clients understand the long-term financial effects a settlement can have. From the beginning of our professional relationship, I will work closely with both you and your other professional advisors – including attorney, CPA or mental health professional – to address these various components and ensure you understand each one as it relates to your individual needs and future.

I am also trained in Collaborative Divorce, in which I work directly with other Collaborative professionals including lawyers and mental health professionals, to settle your divorce outside of the court. Depending on your financial situation, this could be a more beneficial and cost-efficient route to take.

Before becoming a financial advisor, I had a career as an All-American and professional basketball player, and traveled throughout Europe to Italy, Belgium, Turkey, Yugoslavia and Poland. After a severe Achilles injury, my wife, Amy, and I relocated to Sarasota, Florida, where I began my financial services career with Morgan Keegan. I spent eight years there as a Vice President before joining Raymond James as a Vice President, Investments and an Accredited Wealth Management Advisor.

I earned a dual bachelor's degree in international economics and sociology from the College of the Holy Cross. I am also a graduate of Leadership Sarasota and serve on the board of the Family Court Professional Collaborative of Sarasota. When I'm not volunteering with Make-A-Wish Foundation and Big Brothers Big Sisters, I enjoy spending time with Amy and our three children.

LIFE WELL PLANNED.

FINANCIAL GUIDANCE IN DIVORCE MATTERS

Supporting the financial needs of individuals with lives in transition

RAYMOND JAMES®

Navigating the waters of divorce can be difficult, but having access to the right expertise and guidance can help you make the best financial decisions for your future.

Divorce is not only complicated on a personal and emotional level, but on a logistical and financial one, as well. When in the midst of such a challenging phase of your life, it would be easy and understandable to be swept up in the demands of today without fully considering the long-term needs and goals of you and your family.

An experienced professional can alleviate your burden by acting as a trusted advisor, lending their expertise to help you make important financial decisions. By having the support of a knowledgeable partner, you can ensure you leave no stone unturned in addressing your personal and financial needs for both the immediate and distant future.

As you undergo the divorce process, I work with and assist you and your attorney by providing the following core services:

ANALYSIS	PREPARATION	COUNSEL
<p>Clarify your comprehensive financial situation and needs for the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assets and debt • Tax returns • Settlement options • Alimony • Insurance and annuity • Needs and ability • Marital vs. non-marital assets • Property value • Pension value • Life insurance 	<p>Gather and draft the necessary documentation and paperwork</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial affidavit • Equitable distribution spreadsheet • Financial information • Post-divorce financial plan • Insurance quotes • Alimony projections • Child support calculations • Pension evaluation and division • Needs analysis 	<p>Continuous guidance for your immediate and long-term financial needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial education • Ongoing wealth management consulting • Distribution and transfer of accounts post-divorce • Income generation ideas • Implementation of post-divorce financial plan • Real estate holdings • Education investment accounts • Social Security maximization

Capabilities to address a variety of needs

Divorce often sets in motion a recalibration of your financial and personal life. Together, we can address each of the complexities at hand – from comprehensive financial planning to insurance – to be sure each piece reflects your long-term needs and goals.

Settlement protection and expense planning

Receiving a cash settlement can often trigger the temptation to spend on a post-divorce vacation, home upgrade or a new car. Once we know the income you can expect, I can work with you to craft a tailored financial plan, including a detailed budget that accounts for both the expected and unexpected. By being able to accurately gauge your wealth as it relates to your lifestyle and long-term goals, you can better ensure your own comfort and financial independence down the road.

Income planning

Income is an important component of your comprehensive financial strategy, and as such, I work closely with my clients to account for the income they should expect following their divorce, including alimony and other potential forms, such as Social Security and annuity benefits. I can also review your income for tax implications and connect you with the appropriate CPA to assist with tax planning.

Investment management

Your investment portfolio should be tailored to your specific financial needs and goals for the future. The allocations that made sense for your spouse may not be the same for you. I assist my clients in transferring their accounts following divorce, and then work with you to make necessary adjustments and ensure your investments are aligned with your risk tolerance, time horizon and long-term needs.

Insurance considerations

Health Insurance*

Insurance can be complicated in nature, and I often assist my clients in exploring their options for policies and carriers. I get questions such as: How do I apply for COBRA? Who can help me shop for insurance? How do my premiums get paid? I'm happy to answer these questions and guide you in the right direction.

Life insurance

I can assist clients with policy ownership changes or the purchase of new insurance to cover your alimony income. I will also work with you to review your beneficiaries and current policies to make sure they meet your investment needs. As my clients age, I often provide support in researching solutions for the addition of long-term care to their coverage.

Disability income insurance

If your settlement agreement includes a policy, I can provide additional clarity and follow up on proof of coverage.

Estate plans

Estate plans are often easily overlooked post-divorce. Addressing your financial goals beyond your life is important when children and perhaps grandchildren are involved. Estate planning includes but is not limited to wills, trusts, titling of property and tax planning. I make it a point to discuss with my clients their estate planning wishes and introduce them to an estate planning professional if they do not already have one.

Now is the right time to support your financial future.

The sooner we can ensure your financial needs are supported, the better.

The earlier I can partner with you as you undergo the divorce process, the more I can help ensure that the decisions being made truly reflect your financial needs and best interests. Together, we can clarify your options and consider their long-term effects, so you can more easily decide what is most important to you as well as what you're willing to compromise. Making financial decisions under duress without a trusted financial advisor can cost thousands of dollars in the long run. I seek to be a source of both guidance and confidence for my clients in an effort to support their goals as well as preserve their wealth and time.

Whether you're in the midst of the divorce process or already past it, it is never too soon or too late to make sure your financial situation, and the decisions made around it, truly reflect your needs and goals.

It is my privilege to be a knowledgeable resource for my clients as they make these important financial decisions – before, during and following this chapter in their lives.

*Services are not provided by Raymond James.