

“5 STEPS TO Successfully Sharing Love & Money”



By Karen Russo, *The Money Keys: Unlocking Peace, Freedom & Real Financial Power*

1 Take Responsibility for Completing Your Past. It's a mistake to assume a new romantic partner can or should take on another's financial obligations, fix credit or legal issues, or 'rescue' the other. Be willing to heal your own emotional ties and to complete your own financial obligations, and you'll be more empowered and available for a generous and mature relationship.

2 Share all the Pertinent Information of your Money History. Secrets about money lead to conflict. Many money issues arise out of lack of full disclosure, and can be solved with compassion and creativity. Tell your beloved about your past and present investments, retirement accounts, inheritances, and businesses. Include the facts, what you've learned, and what you want to create in the future. Ask and receive the same from your partner. You'll be much better able to make loving, intelligent individual and mutual decisions going forward.

3 Cultivate a Shared Vision for your Financial Life. A vision is an inspiring picture of the future that includes your shared ethical, spiritual, and moral values, as well as your practical goals for your net worth and lifestyle. Couples who invest in discovering and articulating an inner sense of what's important feel more intimate and connected to each other, and are better equipped to handle day to day financial problems, differences and issues.

4 Create & Keep Financial Agreements. Who's going to handle money management in your marriage? What spending decisions will be individual or joint? How much and how frequently will you give to your extended family? What are your guidelines for saving, splurging, taxes and investing? How will you maintain your agreements? Having clear answers to these questions allows you to both feel respected and valued.

5 Revisit your Wealth Vision and your Financial Agreements. Just like an annual medical check up, you'll benefit in more creativity and vitality if you refresh an update your financial situation regularly. In addition to reviewing your goals and dreams you'll want to examine your net worth, income statements, legal documents and make adjustments. Reward yourselves with a wonderful meal or excursion that you'll both enjoy.

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