

We want to ensure that in your first meeting with your Family Law lawyer from CBM, we are able to obtain the information we need from you to get the best possible start on you issue. To do that, it will be helpful if you have taken some time to be as prepared as possible for that first meeting.

## Here's what you can do to get ready:

## **Know Your** qoals

Understand and articulate your goal for hiring us. What do you want to accomplish, specifically? Is the first meeting mainly to provide you with information so you can decide if and how to proceed? Do you already know how you want to proceed and this meeting is for the purpose of ensuring your lawyer has what they need to get the ball rolling? Be clear – with yourself and then with us – about what you want to accomplish in this meeting.

## Summarize Your **Background**

Have the relevant background information summarized. Meetings with your lawyer will last on average one hour. That doesn't leave enough time to share a detailed history of your family issues. However, it is enough time to share the pertinent information your lawyer will need to start doing their job. Make a list of the information that is most pertinent to your legal issue and stick to this list.

## Bring a List of **Questions**

There is a degree of emotion involved in dealing with family law issues. It's common for clients to leave and then realize they didn't ask half of the questions they intended to ask. To avoid this, start writing down your questions well in advance of your meeting. You may find some of your questions are duplicates, or related. This will help you to structure a more precise list of questions before you meet with your lawyer.

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