

How to Keep Your Family Law Legal Costs Down

Most family law work is billed by the hour. This includes meeting time, as well as time outside of meetings in which your lawyer is working on your file. We will try to offer you the best value for your money that we can by working efficiently and delegating basic tasks to your legal team.

Here are some things you can do to help keep your legal costs down.

Be prepared for meetings

- ✓ Bring all relevant documents to your meeting.
- ✓ Keep your documents organized and in date order.
- ✓ Bring details and contact information for any witnesses or other people that your lawyer may want.
- ✓ Make a list of things your lawyer has asked you to do and make sure you keep on top of that list.

(Also see "Preparing for your First Family Law Meeting").

Spend your "lawyer" time wisely:

- ✓ **Stick to the facts (all the facts).** We understand how emotionally difficult family matters can sometimes be, but your money is better spent by sticking to the facts. Make sure you're open with your lawyer and share *all the facts* - even those you fear might cast you in a poor light. Nobody is perfect and it is far better we have that information now, rather than learning it later from another source.
- ✓ **Have your questions ready.** (*Refer to "How to Work Effectively with Your Lawyer"*) Having a list ready can be a big time saver and you don't risk missing something important you wanted to discuss.
- ✓ **Stay focused.** Phones can be distracting, best to keep them turned off while you're meeting with us.

Communicate Well

- ✓ **Use Your Legal Team Smartly.** Discussions involving legal advice, offers and strategy are examples of what your lawyer is for. A reminder for an approaching date or a request for a copy of a document is an example of what our excellent support staff is for. Using your team wisely saves you money.
- ✓ **Stay in contact.** If we're trying to reach you, please call or email us back as soon as you can. Delays can sometimes cost you so the speedier your reply, the better.

To learn more, visit us at
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