

PREPARING FOR YOUR INITIAL MEETING WITH A DIVORCE ATTORNEY

Meeting with a divorce lawyer for the first time to requires some preparation. Here are some of the important facts you should remember when getting ready for the initial meeting.

Be ready with a list of questions

Prior to your appointment, prepare a list of questions and concerns you may have. Some of the common questions that clients ask are as follows:

- 1) How long will it take to complete the process?
- 2) What happens to the children or the assets in the interim?
- 3) Can we try mediation or arbitration?
- 4) What documents do you, the lawyer, need?

Review your financial state before the appointment

If you were responsible in maintaining the household expenses, you should advise the lawyer of information regarding your marital assets like house, car, bank account, retirement fund, stocks etc. You also should advise the lawyer of the marital debts like loans, credit cards, mortgages, etc.

However, in case you do not have access to this information, bring whatever information you do have. The attorney will obtain the rest from your spouse.

It is good to have as much information as possible to get a clear idea about your financial situation and compare it against the predicted financial situation after the separation. Never hold back any information from the lawyer. In fact, by providing accurate information, you help yourself.

Get a brief idea about the budget

Most probably, your attorney will not be able to predict a precise budget on your case. Each divorce case is different from the other. It is hard to predict the complexity of the case at the beginning and therefore the predicting a precise budget is nearly impossible. In addition, it is impossible to predict how willing your spouse will be to engage in settlement negotiations. However, at certain stages of the process, you will get a brief idea of the cost. If you have some serious financial issues, it is better to talk about it with the attorney before it is too late.

Make sure that you are with the correct lawyer

After you initiate the discussion you should be feeling confident with the attorney. It is your job to make the attorney aware of your situation and to keep the attorney apprised of any updates as you move forward in the divorce process.