

What to Expect During Your First Consultation With Your Attorney

How to Prepare for Your Initial Consultation

Gather relevant documents.

Collect all pertinent documents related to your case. This might include marriage certificates, prenuptial agreements, financial records (like bank statements, tax returns, pay stubs), property deeds, custody agreements, and any existing court orders or legal documents. If you are unsure what types of documents your attorney will want to review, do not hesitate to call the office and ask. You may even be asked to submit copies of your documents in advance.

Prepare a list of questions.

Think about what you want to know from the attorney – so write down a running list of questions in a notebook as you think of them. Don't be shy! This can include inquiries about the legal process related to your matter, potential outcomes, attorney fees, timelines, and what steps you should take next so you can feel like you are taking action. It is also important to ask your attorney what other staff members of their firm you will be interacting with and how quickly you can get an answer or update about your case.

Outline your goals and concerns.

What would your ideal outcome be? What would you be willing to compromise on? What concerns do you have about the process? Whether you are worried about child custody arrangements, asset division, or spousal support, having a clear understanding of your goals will help your attorney provide more tailored advice during your meeting. Where do you want to be in a year? Strategize with your attorney when to reach that goal.

Create a summary of key events related to your matter.

Write a brief summary of the key events and facts related to your case. Include dates, important incidents, and any relevant background information. This helps your attorney understand your situation quickly and accurately. It is a good idea to start writing your notes a week or two before your meeting so that you do not feel pressured by doing it at the last minute.

Consider your budget.

Prepare to be transparent about your financial situation, especially if you are going through a divorce, and express any concerns you have about legal fees.

To schedule a consultation, contact us at  (908) 645-1000.