



a different way through divorce

Checklist: what to bring to a first meeting with a lawyer

A typical first meeting with a lawyer involves them asking you a lot of questions to understand your specific situation. You can potentially save time and money on lawyer's fees by coming to your first meeting prepped for discussion with the some or all of the following items. We've left room at the end to add other items to your checklist.

- Full name and birthday of your ex; names and ages of any children
- Name of your ex's lawyer, if applicable
- Your legal aid certificate, if applicable
- Taxes for both you and your ex, for the past three years if possible
- Date of marriage; date of separation
- Your family budget, if you have one, or an estimate of your main expenses (you can use the [Financial Disclosure Form for your province](#) as a starting point)
- A list of your bank accounts (numbers and branches), assets (investments, property, vehicles etc.) and debt (lines of credit, credit cards, mortgages etc.) on the dates of marriage and separation. Include whose names any vehicles or bank accounts are registered in.
- Pension information, including a valuation, if applicable
- Your expectations on parenting time/custody (including any special arrangements for children with disabilities or special needs)
- A list of your questions and main concerns
- _____
- _____
- _____