

Questions To Ask

Your Legal Advisor



Whatever your journey to divorce has been, you are probably going to need a good, supportive and experienced legal advisor to help you.

. You may be considering completing your own divorce online, and you just want some advice on the process itself.

. You may not want to deal with any of the legal process and just want to hand the whole process over to them to deal with.

. It may be that you are going to need them to engage with your partner on your behalf due to the nature of the divorce and associated communication.

Having someone you trust and who you feel comfortable with is so important.

Most Family Law firms will provide you with up to 30 minutes of free legal advice, and it's worthwhile making sure that you know what questions you want to ask beforehand.

. That way, you can get a better idea of what you are going to face.

. You will get an understanding of the costs, which will vary depending on the family law firm you choose.

. Probably most importantly, you will have the opportunity to decide whether you feel that they will provide you with the kind of help you are going to need.

Most lawyers will be used to speaking with potential clients, but you, on the other hand, may not have had that experience, so take some time to think about what you want to ask.

Here are some suggestions:

· What will your legal rights be?

· Length of marriage.

· Children.

· Combined business interests.

· Pensions.

- Is the starting point a 50/50 split
- Will you be entitled to any support?
 - o Children
 - o Spousal
 - o Family home
- What financial disclosures will be required?
- Do I need to do anything right now?
 - o This may be temporary custody or support.
 - o Gather any financial documents or open a new account.
- Ask about mediation or collaborative divorce if that's appropriate.
- What should I avoid doing right now?
- What are the costs if you go forward with them?
- What are the biggest risks I should be aware of in my situation?

If you can prepare a summary of your situation before the meeting, this will save time and keep things very clear. This could include:

- Length of marriage.
- The number and age of children.
- The main assets – property, investments, businesses.
- Highlight any obvious areas of conflict.

Preparation before your 30-minute meeting will give you the clarity you will need to ask the questions that are most important to you.

Don't be afraid to take notes during the meeting; there will be a lot to take in, and just summarising the information you are being given will give you time to consider your position once you are feeling more able to do so.