

Your first meeting

✦ How to prepare and what to expect



- ✦ You will probably have been sent a link to our online questionnaire. Completing this before the meeting will help you focus on the basic information we need for that meeting and will give us a good sense of your circumstances even before we meet with you. It ensures that the initial consultation is as productive as possible.
- ✦ Bring with you any correspondence or documents that you have received from the court, local authority or another firm of solicitors who may have already written to you concerning the matter about which you require advice.
- ✦ If you have kept a diary of relevant events/incidents or have access to relevant communications on your phone then, if you think they are going to be important during the meeting, ensure that they can be easily accessed.
- ✦ You can bring a friend or relative with you to the meeting to support you if you wish.
- ✦ Consider what you would like to achieve at the meeting so that we can ensure that your first meeting is as productive as possible. You can bring any written questions that you have and make notes during the meeting should you wish.
- ✦ If you have children, try to ensure that you have arranged childcare so that you can attend the meeting without them. This means that you can concentrate without distraction, they are not privy to the conversation or if you were to become emotional.
- ✦ Be prepared to be open and honest about your situation with us so we can properly advise you and agree next steps.
- ✦ Whilst we will try to offer as much advice as possible during the first consultation, it is commonly necessary for further information to be gathered before further advice can be offered. The first consultation usually involves us being able to advise you about the legal framework, your options at that point, the further information that is required to progress matters and potentially referrals to other professionals who may be able to help you. If you wish to instruct us further, then we can formulate a plan of action for next steps and provide costs advice.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need to know anything else in advance.

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