

# I Do. I Did. I'm Done!

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## MODULE THREE LAWYER QUESTIONS

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### THE RIGHT QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN YOU MEET WITH YOUR LAWYER/ATTORNEY/SOLICITOR SO THAT YOU DON'T GET F\*CKED OVER.

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Let's face it this period in your life is stressful and life-altering. You may not be able to think straight and clearly at this time. And you want to make the best of this time (as in this case, time really is money), and ensure that you don't waste precious time and money, trying to figure out or remember what to ask. That's where I come in. I've put together a list of questions to ask your lawyer at your initial meeting. Use this table as a guideline. Make sure you write all your answers down because I can guarantee with the state of mind you are in, the conversation you just had, is already swirling in your head, lost in translation, and overwhelming. So save those recently highlighted follicles, no need to pull out your hair, I got your back!!!

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#### 1. DO YOU PRACTICE ANY OTHER LAW, OR IS FAMILY LAW YOUR SPECIALTY?

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**2. IF WE END UP IN COURT, ARE YOU A GOOD LITIGATOR?**

**3. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT MEDIATION? DO YOU HIRE A SPECIAL UNBIASED MEDIATOR, OR DO YOU TRY TO MEDIATE WITH THE OTHER SIDE?**

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**4. WHAT IS YOUR HOURLY RATE? HOW OFTEN CAN I EXPECT TO BE BILLED? DO YOU HAVE A PAYMENT PLAN OPTION? IF I CAN'T PAY NOW, WOULD YOU ACCEPT PAYMENT ON SETTLEMENT AND HAVE YOUR FEES TAKEN FROM THERE?**

**5. WILL THERE BE OTHERS THAT WORK ON MY FILE LIKE AN ASSISTANT, A JUNIOR LAWYER/ATTORNEY/SOLICITOR?**

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**6. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PRACTICING LAW? WHY DID YOU GO INTO FAMILY LAW?**

**7. CAN YOU GIVE ME A REALISTIC TIME FRAME TO HAVE THIS SETTLED IF:**

- A. IT IS CONTENTIOUS**
- B. IF IT IS AMICABLE.**

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**8. SHOULD I EVER SPEAK DIRECTLY TO MY EX-SPOUSE ONCE I HAVE HIRED YOU?**

**9. AM I ENTITLED TO SPOUSAL SUPPORT? CHILD SUPPORT? AND IF SO ARE THERE PROGRAMS/PRACTICES IN PLACE TO ENSURE THIS MONEY COMES TO ME IN A TIMELY MANNER, ESPECIALLY AS IT COULD BE VITAL TO MY EVERY DAY LIVING.**

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### 10. IS HE/SHE ENTITLED TO SPOUSAL SUPPORT?

### 11. ARE YOU EASY TO GET A HOLD OF IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY? AND WHAT IS YOUR DEFINITION OF AN EMERGENCY?

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**12. NOW THAT YOU HAVE HEARD THE FACTS ABOUT MY SITUATION, IN YOUR HONEST OPINION (YOU WON'T BE HELD TO THIS ANSWER) HOW DO YOU SEE THINGS GOING? IF WE HAD TO GO TO COURT, HOW DO YOU THINK A COURT WILL RULE?**

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**13. IF SOMEHOW ALONG THE WAY, WE DISAGREE AND NO LONGER SEEM TO BE ABLE TO WORK TOGETHER, HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF I WANTED TO NO LONGER USE YOUR SERVICES? WOULD YOU MAKE MY FILE READILY AVAILABLE TO ANOTHER LAWYER/ATTORNEY/SOLICITOR?**



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### OTHER NOTES:

These questions are good to ask at the initial meeting. If things don't feel right or you have red flags hitting you over the head, don't ignore these feelings. Trust your instinct and move on to somebody else. Because choosing the right lawyer/attorney/solicitor is one of the most important decisions with respect to your divorce that you can ever make. Your life literally depends on it.