

# How to Separate

## Questions you might ask your lawyer

Some of the following questions may not apply to your situation. Read the worksheet before visiting your lawyer and cross off the questions you don't need to ask.

1. What method do you prefer to use to settle the case? Mediation, arbitration, trial, collaborative negotiations...
2. What legal risks am I facing?
3. What documents do I need to support my case?
4. Do I need statements from witnesses?
5. What are my options for resolving the dispute out of court?
6. If my case goes to litigation, what are the steps in the legal process?
7. How long could it take before my case goes to trial?
8. What could the court order?
9. If I am successful at trial, how soon could I collect settlement after the judgment? Would collection of funds be affected if there are appeals?
10. How much do you think it might cost to handle my case?
11. When will I receive bills from the lawyer, and when am I expected to pay?

12. How can I reduce the cost? Can I handle some of the legal work myself?

13. How often will I be billed for legal services?

14. Do I have payment options?

15. Does the lawyer need a retainer right away?

16. How is it best to contact the lawyer, and how soon can I expect a reply?

17. What do you expect from me?

18. What can I expect from you?

Note: