

**TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR FAMILY LAWYER'S  
LEGAL FEES DOWN**

Dealing with the effects of separation can be a very emotional, painful and expensive process. However, there are certain things you can do to try and keep your legal costs down. Consider the following suggestions:

1. Speak candidly to your lawyer. It is always better to be upfront and honest with your lawyer than to pay to have them spend time finding out something you could have told them at the outset.
2. Keep your documents organized. The more organized and detailed you are with your documents and evidence, the more you may be able to keep your costs down.
3. If you don't currently have an email or voicemail system, we suggest that you get one. Sometimes your lawyer will need to get in touch with you promptly to alert you to new developments. Having an email address or voicemail system can cut down on the time a lawyer spends trying to get a hold of you.
4. Prepare for all meetings, telephone calls and correspondence with your lawyer. Make note of questions you would like to ask.
5. You may be asked to provide your lawyer with written material. This is often an efficient way to get the necessary information from you in order to prepare court documents. The written material you provide may be used in several aspects of your case, and will result in greater efficiency for the lawyer and reduced legal fees for you.
6. Your lawyer may need to prepare a financial statement for you. To do this your lawyer needs documentation to prove all the figures in your financial statement, as well as income tax information. Your lawyer will provide you a list of the documents they need to complete the financial statement and providing these documents in an organized and efficient manner can cut down on legal expense.
7. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, try to communicate with your lawyer in clear, efficient ways. If emailing your lawyer, carefully consider the contents before sending to ensure you have covered everything you need to discuss. Always remember that your lawyer will bill you for their time, so make efficient use of it.