



## **HOW TO KEEP YOUR ATTORNEY FEES DOWN**

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1. Do your homework. When we ask you to do something, do not require us to follow up with you to make sure it gets done.
2. Get information to us timely. Try to get as much information to us at one time as you possibly can. It is more expensive if we have to piecemeal your document preparation.
3. Get all the information we asked of you. Do not argue with us that we do not need the information. There is a reason, or we would not be asking it of you.
4. Come to meetings prepared. It takes us more time and we get less done when you come unprepared. If you are not prepared for a meeting, talk to me first. A 10 minute phone call is much more cost effective than a wasted hour of your time.
5. Don't require meetings to be re-scheduled, unless it is really needed. When you reschedule a meeting I will have to essentially prepare again and familiarize myself with the issues of your case again. The logistics of changing the meeting takes time too. A valid reason for rescheduling a meeting would be because you have not done your homework. The meeting may be a waste of time if there are not other things to work on.
6. Use your coaches. Your individual coach is the one who is there for the emotional divorce. When you come to us, be ready to talk about the issues of your case. Although I do need to understand the emotion that will cause you to be unable to make a decision, your coach is the person who needs to work with you on that emotion.
7. Do not bring us forms you got off the internet. It makes our job harder. If you knew how to craft your own documents, you probably would not need us. We have a protocol for creation of documents. When you create them, we have to go back and analyze what you did and what you missed. This process takes us about 3 times longer than it would if we prepared the document ourselves.
8. Don't try to control the minutia. Trying to save money by making copies makes our job harder. Unless you knew the number, what order we needed them in, and on what kind of paper, you will have us working with your documents longer to organize your version of what you think we need.

~ **Barbara Ann Bartlett** ~

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