**How much do initial consultation fees cost?**

**Consult fees**

Our consult fee is $350. Consultations generally last 1 ½-2 hours in length. The consult fee is paid at the time of scheduling. If you are doing a phone consult then the consult fee is charged before you speak with the attorney. You can pay the consult fee by credit card or cash. If you pay in cash please know that we often do not have cash available in the office to provide change. You can pay your consult fee by clicking **here.**

**Why do we charge a consult fee?**

There is value in the advice that we provide at your consult. It is not the “meet and greet” for 20-30 minutes that most free consults are. Our goal with every consult is to listen to your story, find out what you want to accomplish, and give you an in-depth analysis of your case. There are times that we may be advising you not to file a family law matter or to delay filing. You may be coming in to find out what your rights are but you aren’t interested in filing right now. This takes time and our goal is to spend the time necessary with you at the initial consult to be able to answer your questions and come up with a plan. That often takes 1 ½ -2 hours.

Our firm also has a strong reputation in the community. If we meet with you then we cannot later represent your spouse or other party. Many times a year spouses come in for the sole purpose of meeting with us to ensure that we can’t represent his/her spouse. Because of this misuse of the legal system we are forced to charge consultation fees in order to stay in business. You are paying a consult fee in part to ensure that we only represent you and not the other party. You are also paying us to ensure we don’t represent the other party in the event you decide to hire a different attorney altogether.

**What should I bring to my consult?**

You should bring copies of your most recent tax returns, pay stubs, daycare, and dependent health insurance costs if you want us to calculate child support at the consult. If you are interested in talking about division of property and debt then you should bring a complete listing of all assets and debts to be divided. For business owners bringing in profit and loss statements, balance sheets, corporate tax returns, and a listing of all assets and debts is always helpful. It is also a good idea to write down and bring a list of questions with you to the consult. Our goal is to answer all of your questions and you will get more out of your consultation if you have written those questions down in advance before you come in for your appointment.

We also have intake forms located **here**.You may choose to complete those forms in advance of the consultation if you wish.

**Who should I bring with me to the consultation?**

Preferably no one. Why? When you bring others with you to the consult there is no attorney client privilege. This means the other side has the right to discover everything said in our meeting. However, we understand that you are nervous, that someone else might be paying your bill (and thus wants to know who they are paying), and that you may have difficulty remembering everything we discuss at the meeting. For that reason if you feel that you need to bring a family member or close friend to the consult then that is your decision.