



Taking Your Case to the Supreme Court of BC

Part 7 of 11

*Preparing to meet your lawyer*

## Preparing to meet your lawyer

It is important to be well prepared for your first meeting with a lawyer. This section suggests how you can best prepare for that meeting.

## How to Prepare for a Meeting with Your Lawyer

### Your lawyer:

- will not make decisions for you
- will explain your case and available options
- can help with all or certain parts of your lawsuit, like filling out court forms



A lawyer's job is to explain your legal options to you. In other words, your lawyer won't make decisions for you, but will explain your case and make suggestions about how you can resolve your dispute. You can also ask a lawyer to help you with certain parts of your lawsuit, like how to fill out court forms.

## How to Prepare for a Meeting with Your Lawyer

**Before meeting with your lawyer, think about things you want to know:**

- **options for resolving dispute**
- **evidence**
- **getting help with case**



Before you meet with a lawyer, think about the things that you want to know:

- What are your options for resolving your dispute with the other person? Maybe the best course of action is not to start a lawsuit right away, but for the lawyer to send a letter to the other person suggesting how the issue can be resolved.
- What evidence do you need to support your case? For example, you may need to collect tax returns, letters, and so on.
- Can you get help with only part of your case? You might ask if the lawyer can help prepare certain documents, like the pleadings, or review the other party's documents with you.

## How to Prepare for a Meeting with Your Lawyer

- **How to save time and money**
- **Cost**
- **Time**
- **Strengths and weaknesses of your case**



- What can you do to save time and money in your legal case?
- How much is the legal proceeding likely to cost?
- How much time will it take?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of your case?

### **How to Prepare for a Meeting with Your Lawyer**

- **Take all documents relating to dispute**
- **Write down your questions**
- **Consider taking a friend**
- **Make sure you understand the information**

You should bring along all documents relating to your dispute to your first meeting with the lawyer. Take everything that you think is relevant to your case. Also take a list of questions and write down the answers that the lawyer gives you. The law can be complicated, so make sure you understand the information the lawyer is giving you. If you do not understand, ask the lawyer to explain it again.

You might want to take a friend with you to the first meeting with your lawyer.

## How to Prepare for a Meeting with Your Lawyer

- **Checklist of things to take**



Here is a checklist of things you should think about and take to your first meeting with your lawyer. You can view and print it by clicking on the clipboard icon.

If you have met with a lawyer, he or she may have referred to documents that need to be filed in a legal proceeding, such as pleadings and other court forms. The next section tells you how to locate the correct court forms for your case and how to get help completing them.