

# Frequently Asked Questions

## How long will it take to finalise my matter?

Each matter is different therefore we cannot give general advice on time frames. Timing and expectations are best discussed with your lawyer after your first appointment.

## How much will this cost me?

Our costs agreement sets out the estimated costs of your matter. Generally speaking, the quicker parties reach a resolution, the lower their legal costs will be. This is why we encourage ongoing co-operation between all parties.

## What can I do to keep costs down?

All communication with our Family Law Team is chargeable. We recommend the following to keep costs down:

- email us rather than providing updates by telephone where possible;
- write down any questions or comments you have and either bring them to your appointment with us or collate them in one email rather than contacting us as you think of them;
- gather documents and where possible provide these in PDF format and in chronological order; alternatively you may deliver hard copies to reception.

## Should I get divorced?

You do not have to get a divorce when you separate unless you want to remarry, but staying married affects your rights and obligations in relation to financial matters, Wills and estates. We can assist you with this process, or alternatively you can visit the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia website for more information about completing the divorce yourself.

Be aware that once your divorce is granted by the Court, you have 12 months to bring proceedings to seek a property settlement.

## Should I update my Will?

Yes, you should update your Will, Power of Attorney and Medical Treatment Decision Maker documents. Please ask us about this process.

You should also review your Superannuation beneficiaries, as your former partner may be nominated. You will need to contact your Superannuation Fund to change this.

### Contact the family law team

Phone: 5562 1044

or email:

[brenda@dwyerlegal.com.au](mailto:brenda@dwyerlegal.com.au)

[lucy@dwyerlegal.com.au](mailto:lucy@dwyerlegal.com.au)

[eliza@dwyerlegal.com.au](mailto:eliza@dwyerlegal.com.au)

[alice@dwyerlegal.com.au](mailto:alice@dwyerlegal.com.au)

[reception@dwyerlegal.com.au](mailto:reception@dwyerlegal.com.au)

# Roles and Obligations

## What can I expect from my lawyer?

We will only ever act in your best interests and we will keep you informed of the progress of your matter.

The advice we give you is based upon the law and our experience. We appreciate it may differ from your expectations but we aim to ensure you understand your legal position. Sometimes our advice may change if new information is received.

We may not be available to meet with you or be able to prepare properly if you attend the office unannounced, so you should always make appointments ahead of time. If you phone the office and your lawyer is not available, their assistant may be able to take a brief message or arrange an appointment.

## What will my lawyer expect from me?

Be courteous and polite at all times.

You may bring a support person to appointments, but instructions must come from you.

Our preferred contact method is via email where possible, but of course we are available by phone when necessary. Please regularly check your email.

Gather requested documents in a timely manner.

Be available for court events unless we tell you otherwise.

## When we will stop acting for you

In most cases we will continue to act for you until your matter is finalised.

In some cases we may stop acting for you before the matter is finalised where:

- a conflict arises where we cannot act in your best interests
- you do not provide us with instructions when we require them
- you do not accept our advice
- you ask us to act in a way that would be unethical or illegal
- you do not pay our accounts within the time specified

We will notify you immediately if we cease to act for you.

## Contact the family law team

Phone: 5562 1044

or email:

brenda@dwyerlegal.com.au

lucy@dwyerlegal.com.au

eliza@dwyerlegal.com.au

alice@dwyerlegal.com.au

reception@dwyerlegal.com.au