

2.4 Preparing to get legal advice

This information sheet can help you to make the most of the time you spend with your lawyer. Fill out this information sheet and take it to your first appointment with your lawyer together with the documents listed in the checklist below.

1. **You**

Name:

Date of birth:

Address:

Telephone:

2. **Other party**

Name:

Date of birth:

Address:

Telephone:

Name and contact details for lawyer (if relevant):.....

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3. **Family history and details**

Date you and your partner started living together:

Date of marriage:

Date of separation:

Children (names, gender, date of birth):.....

Name	Date of Birth	Name of other parent

Current care arrangements for the children:

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Any history of domestic and family violence (violence and abuse can be coercive control, verbal abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse and so on):

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Any AVOs (current and past):.....

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4. Property

Current assets	Details	Estimated value
House		
Car		
Furniture		
Shares		
Insurance		
Superannuation		
Business		
Other		
Current debts	Details	Estimated value
Credit cards		
Personal loans		
Mortgage		
Other		

List the assets you brought to the relationship:

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List the assets the other party brought to the relationship:

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List your non-financial contributions to the relationship, e.g. homemaker contributions:

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List the other party's non-financial contributions to the relationship, e.g. homemaker contributions:

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5. Checklist of documents to take to your lawyer

- marriage certificate (if married)
- bank account statements for the last 3 years
- credit card statements for the last 3 years
- superannuation statements for the last 3 years
- insurance statements for you and your partner for the last 3 years
- mortgage documents
- title deeds of any property you own (or where they are held)
- receipts for major items you bought before the relationship
- receipts for major items you bought during the relationship
- tax returns and Notices of Assessment for the last 7 years
- any apprehended domestic violence orders taken for your protection or against you
- any statements you have given to the police about violence and abuse perpetrated by your former partner