

### **Questions about experience:**

- How many divorce cases have you handled?
- How many of those cases were you able to settle out of court?
- Do you practice Collaborative Divorce?
- Do you know my spouse?
- Do you know my spouse's attorney?
- Are you familiar with local Family Court judges and how they rule?
- Do you believe it is better to mediate and negotiate than go to trial?
- Do you have experience negotiating child support, spousal support, large financial settlements, or business valuation? Ask specific questions about issues you think will come up during your divorce.
- How many cases with complicated property settlements have you handled?
- What was the outcome of those cases?

### **Questions about how your case will be handled:**

- Will you or another attorney in the firm be handling my case?
- Can I meet anyone else who will be involved in handling my case?
- What experience does he/she have?
- Are you available via phone or email?
- How would I reach you in an emergency situation after hours/on weekends?
- Do you have a heavy caseload? Will you have time to devote to my case?
- If I need to reach you, what is the best time of day?
- Will I receive copies of documents filed with the court, all communication with my spouse's attorney and any other documents related to my case?
- Will I be kept informed of all developments in my case?
- Will you ask my opinion before planning strategy?
- What are your personal feelings about spousal support?
- What are your personal feelings about joint custody versus sole custody?

### **Questions about fees:**

- What is your retainer fee?
- What is your hourly billing rate?
- Do any fees I pay include the services of any associates who work on my case?
- If my case goes to divorce court, will there be extra fees?
- Will I sign a contract outlining the fee arrangement?
- Will I be sent itemized bills?
- Will I be kept updated about how the retainer fee is used and when it is used up?
- Will you petition the court for my spouse to pay my attorney fees?
- How much do you charge for letters and phone calls to my spouse's attorney or me?
- How much will you charge for copies of all relevant documents?
- Will there be other costs such as court filing fees, process server fees, or other extraordinary fees? Are these costs included in your fees or do I pay them separately?
- Will I be billed for communication via phone or email? If so what is your billing structure? Find out exactly how much the attorney charges and how he/she bills for his/her time.