

Things to Do Before you Talk with a Lawyer

You should prepare before talking with a lawyer so you can get the most out of your time and make the best-informed decision. This checklist can help you to get ready.



1. Determine your goal(s).

For example, “I want to get child support payments.” “I want my landlord to give me more time to move.” “I want creditors to stop calling me.”

Goal #1: _____

Goal #2 (if applicable): _____

Goal #3 (if applicable): _____



2. Decide your budget.

How much money can you spend on legal services? For example, you might have \$50 per week, or \$200 per month, to spend on a lawyer.

\$ to spend per week: _____

\$ to spend per month: _____



3. Gather relevant documents.

Do you have any court papers, letters, pictures, receipts or other documents related to legal problem? Bring them with you to show the lawyer.

Court papers Letters/E-mails Receipts/Bills

Pictures Other _____



4. Contact a lawyer.

You will have limited time with the lawyer, so it’s important that you think about these issues. Complete and bring this worksheet to your meeting.

To connect with affordable attorneys offering set fees and flexible representation options customized to meet your needs and budget, visit the Justice Entrepreneurs Project at www.jepchicago.org or call (312) 546-3282. For information about finding free legal help in Cook County, visit <https://www.illinoislegalaid.org/cook>.

