

Ginter Family Law

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (GENERAL)

1. How much will my case cost?

Unfortunately, we are not able to provide you with a figure for how much your case will cost. This is because the factors that influence cost are mostly in your control and the other party's control. For example, the more you both cooperate, the less costly your case will be. Another factor within your and the other party's control is your "approach style"...are you detail-oriented? The more detail you want to see in your case, the more your case will cost. How much do you trust the other party? The less you trust the other party, the less likely you will take what he/she says at face value. If this is the cost, you will likely want to see more documentation that supports what it is the other person is telling you. This will require more cost.

The facts of your case also will influence cost. The more complex your case is, the more it will cost. For example, a case where there are minor children involved will cost more than a case where there are no minor children. A case where one of the parties is self-employed will typically cost more than a case where both parties are W-2 employees.

2. Can you at least give me a range or an approximate amount my case will cost?

Given the information mentioned above, and due to ethical rules in California, our firm's policy is to not provide a range or approximate amount that a case will cost.

3. I do not like knowing how much my case will cost. How can I feel more comfortable?

There many steps you can take to ensure that your case does not exceed your financial comfort. Here are a few:

- You and the other party can agree to cooperate with each other as you go through your case.
- If possible and you feel comfortable, you can consider mediation, which tends to be less expensive than litigation.
- You are billed monthly from our office. If the amount of your case exceeds your financial comfort zone, you can terminate services at any time. Alternatively, most of the time you can *reduce* the level of services we provide. For example, you can go from "full" service to "partial" service or "consult-only" service. You should always review your bills carefully, and you keep track of your payments if that is important to you.

You are responsible for keeping track of your bills and for ensuring that your credit card on file with our office has sufficient credit, does not have restrictions for our billing and that the number and expiration date are updated. Otherwise, you will incur late fees.

- If you don't understand something...speak up immediately. Don't sit and wait. If you are confused, you are more likely going to make a mistake, which will cost something to fix it.
- When we provide a deadline for tasks, make sure you meet that deadline. Complete your tasks on time. Failure to do so means that we will need to follow up with you, and these follow-ups are billed to you. Additionally, your tasks could "snowball." If you had one (1) task, but now you have ten (10), you will feel overwhelmed. It also takes us more time to review your case file to see exactly what items are still outstanding.
- When you are given tasks, complete them fully. Fill out forms completely. Err on the side of providing too much than too little. Don't cut corners. If you do, we will most likely have to follow up with you and/or fix errors...all which will be billed to you.
- Follow the money-saving tips listed in your *Welcome Letter*.

4. Is a web meeting something I could handle? It sounds too technical.

Absolutely. In fact, most people are already equipped to be able to attend a web meeting. You simply need a device that connects to the internet that includes a microphone and speakers. Laptops, smartphones and tablets already have a webcam built into them, and you can simply buy a webcam if you have a desktop computer that does not already have a webcam. When we schedule a web meeting with you for the first time, we have a simple *Meeting Guide* that is sent to you. You don't need any special software to attend a web meeting.

A web meeting allows you to avoid traffic, save gas money and avoid wasted time on the road. You can attend a web meeting on a lunch break in your car or office, for example, rather lose a half day at work. Additionally, you can view the attorney/mediator and review documents just the same as if you were meeting in person.