



## A Guide to Preparing for Your Domestic Case

Domestic cases are extremely sensitive and, in some cases, action needs to be taken quickly to keep one of the parties or children involved safe. Even with a straightforward divorce where no one is at risk, you want to be prepared. It is important to know what to expect when it comes to the process and cost of potentially taking the other party to court.



**OSWALD LAW**

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## What am I Paying For When I Hire a Domestic Law Attorney?

**Hourly rate and retainer fee:** \$175.00 an hour with a flexible retainer

The initial retainer fee is paid at the first conference. We never know exactly how long it will take to finalize a divorce, but the level of conflict between the parties involved often can give us a rough estimate of how long it will take and how much it will cost to obtain results.

During a divorce, it is important to protect your interests and continuously work towards your desired outcome. This could be done in a matter of months or could take years of continuous litigation. That is why a flexible retainer and hourly fees are in place.

### What is a Retainer Fee?

Hourly fees are pretty self-explanatory. However, you may not be as familiar with retainer fees. A retainer fee is a small amount that is paid to an attorney on a regular basis. In return, the attorney performs some legal services whenever the client needs them. Having an attorney on retainer is important during a divorce because you never know when you will have questions or need legal counsel during this unstable time. You may need to contact your attorney if there are issues with custody, shared finances, or if harassment occurs and you want to be able to do so when necessary.



Whether you need a confident and assertive courtroom voice to represent you during the divorce or want to reach an agreement outside of the courtroom, our attorneys are here to help make that happen.

At Oswald Law, we live in the community and serve the central Kansas area. We will be here to see the whole case through. There are also specific strategies associated with each case that need to consider the Court and the Judge. Your case strategy will consider all relevant factors.



## What are My Responsibilities After Hiring an Attorney?

1

**Tell us the whole story and provide details.** We rely on you to tell us the whole story. In order to get you the best possible result, we need to know everything you know. We always tell our clients – you are the factual expert and we are the legal experts. Let's meet in the middle to get you the best result.

2

**Keep records of every interaction.** Many custody cases involve communication issues between the parties. If the matter proceeds to an evidentiary hearing, we need to be prepared with written communication via email, text messages, and other related documents. Judges usually notice which party is more organized and has communicated clearly – a written message may be safest.

### What if There are Other Legal Matters Relating to My Case?

Financial issues associated with your case may involve a civil dispute, estate issues, or even bankruptcy. An ongoing criminal investigation or DCF investigation may dramatically impact custody. We are prepared to represent you in all aspects of your case.

If you are seeking legal guidance during your divorce, custody battle or other domestic dispute, contact our team at Oswald Law. We will be there to represent you and help you obtain your desired results. Contact us today for more information.





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Call today for a *FREE* consultation! **(620) 662-5489**

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