

UNBROKEN WITH YAY

PODCAST EPISODE 13: LAWYERS: YAY OR NAY?

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WORKSHEET 13: THE PROFESSIONAL SHIELD

Disclaimer: The information provided in this worksheet and the associated podcast is of a general nature only. It has been prepared without taking into account your individual objectives, legal circumstances, or personal needs. While this content is based on extensive learned experience and peer-informed strategy, it does not constitute professional advice. You should consider the appropriateness of this information and seek independent professional advice tailored to your specific situation before taking any action.



THE 30-MINUTE *Lawyer Audition*



This worksheet is intentionally designed to help you interview potential counsel like a CEO, strip away the emotional noise, protect your pocket, and protect your peace.

In Australia, many family lawyers offer a free initial consultation. Use this time wisely. Do not use these 30 minutes to vent about your ex's personality. Instead, treat this as a CEO interviewing a contractor.

Use the Consultation Call Sheet when you call different lawyers to compare their strategies, vibes, and fee transparency before locking one in.

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The Consultation CALL SHEET

Tick the box once you have completed the initial call, and jot down their answers to your core questions.

LAWYER 1:

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PHONE:

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NOTES ON STRATEGY:

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FIRM:

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HOURLY RATE: \$

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LAWYER 2:

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PHONE:

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NOTES ON STRATEGY:

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FIRM:

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HOURLY RATE: \$

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LAWYER 1:

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PHONE:

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NOTES ON STRATEGY:

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FIRM:

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HOURLY RATE: \$

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LAWYER 2:

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PHONE:

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NOTES ON STRATEGY:

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FIRM:

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HOURLY RATE: \$

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THE TOP 10 HIGH-STRATEGY QUESTIONS



Instructions: Use your free 30-minute initial phone consultations to interview 5 to 6 different family lawyers. Do not use this time to vent about your ex's personality. Instead, use these 10 targeted, Australian family law-specific questions as your checklist to find the right strategist.

THE TOP 10 QUESTIONS

to ask a divorce lawyer

☐

1. How does the court view my role as a stay-at-home mother when splitting our assets?

CEO Insight: Listen for a lawyer who treats your contribution at home with immense value and dignity. You want someone who immediately speaks about equity and fairness, not just a cold calculation of who brought home the paycheck.

☐

2. Does it matter whose name the assets, property, or debts are in?

CEO Insight: A good strategist will look at the big picture rather than panicking about names on bank accounts. They should confidently explain how the global pool works so you don't spend sleepless nights worrying about a name on a deed.

☐

3. What is included in the "asset pool" and how do we prevent them from hiding money?

CEO Insight: You are testing their thoroughness here. Look for a professional who takes asset disclosure seriously and has clear steps to follow if financial documents are intentionally hidden or withheld.

☐

4. How will our superannuation be handled?

CEO Insight: Superannuation is a major financial asset that gets overlooked during the panic. Make sure the lawyer actively factors super balances into your overall future financial security strategy.

☐ **5. Can I stay in the family home with the kids, and how do we manage household bills right now?**

CEO Insight: This question is about your immediate stability. You need a lawyer who prioritizes keeping a roof over your kids' heads and can give you clear options for managing expenses while you negotiate.

☐ **6. Am I entitled to any interim financial support to help me survive right now?**

CEO Insight: This tests their advocacy for your immediate survival. If your access to family funds has been cut off, your lawyer should instantly present a practical plan to ensure you aren't left stranded financially.

☐ **7. How does the court determine parenting arrangements, and does "equal rights" mean an automatic 50/50 split?**

CEO Insight: Avoid lawyers who promise a rigid cookie-cutter outcome. Look for someone who focuses on the practical safety, routine, and best interests of your kids, creating a flexible plan that fits real life.

☐ **8. What can I do right now to keep my legal costs down?**

CEO Insight: This is a massive transparency test. A great, ethical lawyer will happily give you homework—like organising your own financial files—and utilise junior staff for basic tasks to save you money.

☐ **9. What is your fee structure, and can I pay my fees out of the final property settlement?**

CEO Insight: A true CEO demands absolute fee transparency. You need to know exactly how you are being billed, when payments are due, and if they offer flexible options if your funds are currently frozen.

☐ **10. What is your strategy to get me to a resolution without a long, draining court battle?**

CEO Insight: This is the most crucial question. You are hiring a peacemaker who carries a shield, not a gladiator looking for a multi-year fight. Look for a heavy focus on mediation, consent orders, and protecting your sanity over litigation.

MY CUSTOM QUESTIONS:



EVERY SITUATION IS UNIQUE. WRITE DOWN 2 OR 3 SPECIFIC QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR KIDS, PROPERTY, OR SAFETY THAT YOU NEED TO ASK DURING YOUR CONSULTATIONS:

1:

2:

3:

THE PREP

Before

YOU PING SHEET

Every time you call or email your lawyer just to say your ex was rude, it can cost you upwards of \$10 a minute. Lawyers are experts in law, not feelings.

Use your friends, family, or a therapist for emotional support—use your lawyer strictly for legal facts.

To keep your bills low, fill out this quick 3-step checklist before you send an email or make a phone call.

THE ONE GOAL

What is the exact, specific reason I am contacting them today?

THE COLD FACTS

List only dates, times, and hard evidence. No adjectives, no "I feel"

THE CHESS MOVE

What specific legal action or advice do I need from them right now?

CHOOSING PEACE OVER THE FIGHT

(My Reality Check)

Adrenaline makes you want to dig your heels in and fight tooth and nail over every single detail. But a smart CEO knows when a battle is costing more than the prize is worth.

Take a deep breath, step out of "fight mode," and list three things you refuse to waste your time, energy, or expensive legal fees fighting over because they simply do not matter to your long-term peace:

HILL #1 I WON'T DIE ON:

HILL #2 I WON'T DIE ON:

HILL #3 I WON'T DIE ON:





MY LAWYER IS MY TOOL,
NOT MY SAVIOUR. I AM
THE LEAD STRATEGIST IN
MY OWN CASE. I WILL
NOT COMPROMISE MY
PEACE FOR A PETTY
BATTLE.

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