your expectations is to have a specific written retainer agreement that spells out how fees and costs are determined.

4.14 What factors will impact how much my divorce will cost?

Although it is difficult to predict the total amount of your legal fees, the following are some of the factors that impact the total cost:

- Whether custody and placement are in dispute
- Whether your divorce presents any novel legal questions
- Whether a pension plan(s) is subject to division
- Whether there is a prenuptial or postnuptial agreement between the parties
- Whether either of the parties have received gifted or inherited property, and whether or not that property has been commingled
- Whether you and/or your spouse have a premarital interest in property or debt
- The nature and number of the issues contested
- The cooperation of your spouse and opposing counsel
- The frequency of your communication with your attorney
- The ability of you and your spouse to communicate with each other
- The promptness with which information is provided and/or exchanged between both you and your spouse and the attorneys
- Whether there are litigation costs, such as fees for expert witnesses or court reporters
- The extent of discovery
- The hourly rate of the attorney

Reviewing regular invoices from your attorney and communicating with your attorney about any questions or concerns will help keep you on track with the overall cost of your divorce.