

Essay Prompt #1

A client walks into your office asking for your help with obtaining an initial child support order. The client and the other party were in a long-term relationship together and have one young child together. They never married. The client tells you that the other parent has informally agreed to share parenting time for the child and that your client will be the child's primary residential caregiver. However, the parents cannot agree on who should pay child support.

What information must you elicit from your client before you can advise them about the likely amount and duration of an initial child support award under the statutory guidelines?