CLearning Units

Learning Units

Learning unit 01: Pre-litigation phase: Interviewing clients and witnesses

Pre-litigation phase: Interviewing clients and witnesses

Prescribed reading for Unit 1

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Read chapter 1 of Marnewick (prescribed textbook)

According to Marnewick: "In litigation, the overall game plan starts with a good structure for an interview with the client..."

Chapter 1 relates to conducting an interview with a client and sets out a plan of action in stages (specifically stage 1–7). Further protocols are applicable to consulting witnesses and conducting a conference with counsel. Read chapter 1 and pay particular attention to the tables provided by Marnewick on the structure of an interview.

Learning outcomes

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Instructions: Read the following learning outcomes

On completion of Learning Unit 1, you should be able to:

- identify the stages of client consultation
- conduct an interview with clients and witnesses
- · conduct a conference with counsel

Activity

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We all know someone who has been involved in a car accident or has perhaps been a victim of crime. Find a friend, relative or colleague who has had such an experience. Conduct an interview with him or her according to the principles discussed in chapter 1 and advise what the correct legal remedy may be in the specific case (for example a claim against the RAF or short-term insurance company).

Rate your performance against the statement provided by Mrs Smith in Appendix 1 of Marnewick and discuss your answers on myUnisa under Forum 4 (discussion 2).

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