



How to Choose a Family Law Attorney

Introduction

Potential clients come to family law attorneys at major crossroads in their lives, having to make difficult decisions regarding the future of their families. Engaging legal representation that educates you about the process, while making sure to address your concerns are critical to a successful attorney client relationship. So before making the time and financial investment, here are some other factors to consider.

Knowledge:

Take time to find out about your potential attorney's ("PAs") background. Where they went to school? How long they have practiced? Most information can be easily found through a simple internet search. Any information that you can't find you should be prepared to ask about during your initial consultation with your PA.



Most family law attorneys will take steps to remain up to date about the current caselaw, through courses and seminars, as well as, membership in family law committees in the various local, and national bar associations.

Depending upon how complex your case is the PA should also be knowledgeable about other supplemental areas like tax and real estate law.

Case Record

There is a saying that, “there are no winners or losers” in family law cases.



However, your PA should have a track record of having represented individuals in different types of seeking assistance. You may not be thrilled with a particular outcome, but you should feel as though your attorney worked diligently on your behalf.

Interested in what is best for your FAMILY:

During the process of ending a marriage, emotions can be heightened, and the focus can stray away from what is best for the children. Your PA should always try to steer your focus back to your children and have enough past experience to assist you with arriving at successful outcomes for you and your children.



Pleasant:

Sounds simplistic, but you are going to be, “in the trenches” throughout the duration of your case with your attorney. Your attorney needs to be someone that is a good listener, reassuring, and respectful.

Accessible:

Communication with your attorney is critical. Your PA should provide you with their policies regarding how best to get in contact with them, and what the turnaround time is between your reaching out and actually speaking with them.



Sample Questions:

Here are some sample questions you may want to ask your PA during the initial consultation:

1. What percentage of your clientele is male/female?
2. How long will the process take from start to finish?
3. What are the steps to the process and what should I expect at each step?
4. What methods do you use to communicate with your clients?

5. On average how long should I expect a return phone call or response to an email?
6. Have there been any recent significant changes to divorce/custody law? What are the pros and cons you see with my case?

DISCLAIMER

This was not meant to be exhaustive, but to help you get prepared for starting the process of selecting an attorney. Start earlier rather than later. Meet with several attorneys before making your final decision. You may find that the attorney you select meets only some of what was suggested, but most important is your confidence that this person has your best interest in mind, and will work, on your behalf, to the best of their abilities.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?



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action plan!***

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