

5 REVEALING QUESTIONS TO ASK

Before Hiring a Personal
Injury Attorney



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You only get one chance to recover for your injuries. You need an attorney—a personal injury attorney—who is both qualified to represent you and is a good fit for you personally. Here are 5 important questions to ask before hiring a personal injury attorney.



1

What kind of clients do you represent?

Some lawyers are general practitioners who do a little of everything. Just like a doctor who specializes in a certain area of medicine, a lawyer that focuses on specific areas of the law will know that area inside and out. To get the best results for the client, there are things you can only know if you do it daily.



2

How long have you been working in your field?

Personal injury lawyers usually charge the same contingent fee, regardless of experience. That means you could get a lawyer with 2 years of experience or 20+ years of experience—for the same fee, which means you can have the best for the same cost as someone with less experience. Since you are paying a percentage of what the lawyer collects, having an experienced lawyer actually gets you more money. Experience counts!



3

Do you try lawsuits in court?

When a lawyer takes a case on a contingent fee, the faster a case resolves, the more the lawyer earns per hour. Some lawyers prefer to handle cases instead of representing clients. They settle cases quickly and cheaply, or pass them off to another lawyer to do the real work. There's only one way to get fair treatment of your case in a settlement: show the insurance company you're ready to go to court. Lawyers who are willing to try your case rarely have to do so as insurance companies know when their bluff will be called.



4

What is your track record of verdicts and settlements?

The more successful case outcomes a lawyer has, the better it is for you. Winning isn't everything—lawyers who try tough cases can lose them—and a lawyer who knows how to present a case in court is a huge asset on your side. A lawyer who is willing and able to try a case in court costs insurance companies money to defend, which factors into settlement negotiations. Insurance companies know which lawyers in your area actually go to court and which ones do not, and use that information to evaluate their risk.



5

What achievements and awards have you received?

You want the best lawyer for your case. Look for qualifications that are earned like graduation from specialty colleges and board certification instead of meaningless awards that are given to anyone who pays a fee. Another mark of a top lawyer is awards and honors from legal organizations and speaking engagements where the lawyer has been asked to share his or her recognized expertise with others.



bonus

Does the lawyer treat you like a case or a person?

Law firms that treat clients as “files” or “cases” are not looking out for you as a person, or the concerns you have that won’t affect their bottom line. They are interested in what your legal matter can do for them from a business perspective. If you call after hours and are asked for a claim or file number from your lawyer, you can quickly figure out whether the lawyer cares about you or just your case. You should also ask how the law firm would communicate with you. You want a lawyer who will communicate and answer your questions—not one who ignores your concerns or shuttles you off to paralegals rather than talking with you directly.

CONTACT US FOR A FREE STRATEGY SESSION

Some injury cases don’t need an attorney. If yours doesn’t, I will tell you so for **free**.



We never charge a fee unless we collect money for you, and most cases resolve without a court appearance.

Call 314-252-9937 or visit www.farrislaw.net