

## QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK A LAWYER BEFORE YOUR FIRST VISIT AND ON YOUR FIRST VISIT

1. **What documents should I bring to the first visit?** An initial meeting with a potential or new lawyer is most productive when the lawyer is actually able to review and analyze documents involved. You should ask if there are specific documents you should bring with you. Generally, it is good to bring any documents which are obviously connected to the matter you wish to discuss.
2. **Is a substantial part of your practice in the area of law which I am concerned about?** Lawyers often handle a wide variety of types of legal issues. It may be crucial to your case that you hire a lawyer who is very experienced in the area of law which is of concern to you.
3. **How do you handle client communication?** Some clients want to know every step of the way what is happening with their situation. Other clients just want to know about the important issues. It is advisable to ask a potential lawyer what their communication style is so that you find a lawyer with whom you are able to work easily and comfortably.
4. **What level of personal attention will I receive?** One of the most frequent complaints about lawyers is that they fail to respond to clients. Asking this question at the beginning of your relationship may help you choose a lawyer who will provide the level of personal attention you need.
  - a. **Do you return phone calls?** This seems obvious, but it is not. The inability to reach your lawyer is one of the most frustrating things clients can experience. Communication with the client is critical to the establishment and continuation of a good work relationship in any business, including law firms.
  - b. **Do I get copies of documents relating to my file?** Many law firms do not routinely provide their clients with copies of pleadings, motions, letters and other documents. You should inquire about the lawyer's policy on copying clients with relevant documents.
5. **Do you charge for an initial conference?** Some lawyers advertise free consultations; however, in the business context, there are often times when one of our lawyers can provide a solution to your problem during the initial meeting. In those situations, we charge you for our time in the initial meeting and nothing more. For situations that do require more work, we offer a wide range of fee options and invite you to call us to discuss those options.
6. **What should I be doing now?** This is a very important question to ask your lawyer at the very beginning of your relationship. The answer may help you avoid making mistakes such as failing to preserve evidence or actions which may further complicate your situation.

**Please see our FAQs regarding involvement in lawsuits for additional information!**

**Call us today to discuss what we can do for you! Phone: (727) 821-3060**

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