

5 QUESTIONS

to Ask to Find the Right
Attorney for Your Case



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INTRO

If you're currently looking for a personal injury lawyer, then you have likely been through a traumatic incident recently, and you need someone who will best represent you and your interests. The following are five questions that you should ask a personal injury attorney before you hire them represent you.

1



How long have you been practicing law?

While a young lawyer, with little experience, may be able to pursue your case successfully, a more experienced lawyer will have a longer track record of successes and failures that you can check and compare to your own case. Not only is it important to understand how long your lawyer has been practicing law, but also, how long they have been practicing personal injury law, and how much of their firm's practice is dedicated to personal injury. An attorney may have been practicing law for 20+ years, but if they have limited experience in personal injury law, or their firm dedicates very few resources to it, then they might not be able to represent you as well as another attorney can.

2



Will you be personally handling my case?

There is a good chance that you're hiring a lawyer based on their reputation. That's why you should know whether they will be handling your case personally or handing it off to someone else in the firm. This isn't to say that you should ultimately dismiss a lawyer if he or she isn't going to be personally handling your case—their reputation often extends to their partners—but you should really be asking these questions to the attorney who will represent you, and you should know who to contact when you need to discuss aspects of your case.

3



Do you try cases in court?

There are lawyers who are more than willing to avoid lengthy court cases in order to quickly settle on behalf of their clients. This is often not in the best interest of the client. While a settlement may be more than fair, and you shouldn't necessarily deny a settlement outright, a lawyer that is willing to take a case to trial is one that more likely has the best interests of their client in mind, and will also get the best settlements when not taking a case to court. You should also inquire about their track record when it comes to verdicts and settlements. It can give you a good idea about how likely they are to win a case, but you should understand that a few losses do not mean that they're a bad lawyer. It could just indicate their willingness to take on a difficult case.

4



What will my participation in the case be?

Many of us, when hiring a lawyer, like to be involved in all stages of the case and be kept in the loop. It's important to know whether or not that is something that your lawyer is OK with. It's also important for your attorney to know who they're representing to be able to tell your story and to understand the case and facts from your perspective. If your lawyer doesn't understand the impact that an injury has had on your life, then they can't properly represent you and get you the settlement or verdict that will best offset the damages that you incurred. If the lawyer is unwilling to get to know you enough to understand, then it might be best to find a different attorney.

5



Can you provide me with anything that speaks to your reputation?

Testimonials are a good way to gain a better understanding about how an attorney works. By understanding how your lawyer worked with other clients, you get a better idea of how they will represent you and your case. This is especially helpful if they have any testimonials from clients who had cases similar to yours. You can also ask if they have received any honors or recognitions from professional associations, which are generally awarded after they have been nominated by their peers in the industry.



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If you have been injured and have other questions about personal representation, contact The Pottenger Law Firm today.