

Personal Injury Attorney Interview Worksheet ©

Note to Consumers: This interview worksheet is designed to help you when consulting with a personal injury attorney about a possible personal injury claim or case. It is based upon the principles and guidelines set forth in the How to Hire a Personal Injury Attorney web site. It is designed to try and help you retain the personal injury attorney that is right for your case.

IMPORTANT CONSUMER TIP: It is important to understand the difference between litigation and trials. Litigation is the entire process of filing a lawsuit, conducting discovery, taking depositions, preparing for mediation, preparing for trial and actually trying the case. Most civil lawsuits settle and very few actually go to trial.

After a review and discussion about the facts and circumstances related to your potential claim and/or case and a discussion of any related legal issues, the attorney should be able to give you an idea of whether he or she may be interested in working for you on your claim or case. If the attorney needs more information or needs to do some research to determine whether he or she can help, make sure you know how long that process will take.

At some point you will be given a chance to ask questions. As mentioned above the first thing you want to know is whether or not the attorney believes you have a claim or case they are interested in pursuing.

A. PROCESS AND PROCEDURE

If the attorney has indicated he or she is interested in helping you with your claim or case, then you should ask about the process and procedure for the claim or case and how long it will take.

B. PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Tell me about your professional experience.

1. What Professional organizations to you belong to? _____

2. Do you belong to any professional organizations specifically related to my type of claim or case?

3. Are you a member of any professional organization related to your litigation and trial skills?

C. TRIAL & LITIGATION EXPERIENCE

Tell me about your litigation and trial skills.

1. How many cases similar to mine have you actually tried in Court? _____

2. How many claims or cases similar to mine have you litigated? _____

3. Tell me about the outcome of those cases.

D. RESOURCES

Tell me about your firm's resources for my case.

1. Who else may be working on my file and what will they do? _____

2. What expenses do you anticipate for my case and how will these be handled? _____

3. How often will I hear from you about my claim or case?

E. CONTINGENCY FEES

1. Tell me the percentage of your contingency fee and exactly how your contingency fee will be applied. _____

2. Do you have a sample contingency fee contract that I may take with me? _____

3. Will I get a copy of the fee agreement when I sign it? _____

F. MONETARY RECOVERY AND DISTRIBUTION

1. If there is a monetary recovery in my case, how will the money be handled? _____

2. Will I be given an itemized statement showing fees and expenses? _____

3. Do you have a sample of a distribution schedule from a similar case? _____

G. ADDITIONAL NOTES: _____

