



## Personal Injury Attorney INTERVIEW

What you should know about an attorney before hiring them

ATTORNEY: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_



### Past client reviews

Check independent directories to see what past clients say.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Who will be assigned to your case

Make sure all the questions you ask are relevant to the specific lawyer assigned to your case. It may not be the person you first speak with.

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### Overall experience & resources

Firm age, size, experience, connections with doctors and expert witnesses relevant to your case. Awards and leadership roles in organizations can also be good indicators.

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### Judicial connections

Find out if they participate in the local bar association and contribute to campaigns.

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### Negotiation ability

Ask what sort of settlements they have obtained (remember, 95% of personal injury cases are settled without trial).

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### Your personal comfort with the lawyer

Do you feel comfortable talking to them about explicit details of your case? Do they answer your questions to your satisfaction? Are they a good listener? Ask how and how often they'll communicate with you about your case.

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### Past problems

Has the attorney ever been censured or disciplined by any legal or ethics committees in the past?

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### Knowledge of your area

Have they tried or settled similar cases in your city or county? Do they have an office near you?

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### Experience with your type of case

How many personal injury cases have they handled in your state for your type of accident or injury? Do other lawyers refer cases to them?

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### Timing

Ask specifically when your lawsuit will be filed and how long they anticipate it will take. Make sure they don't have so many pending cases right now they can't devote proper time to yours.

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### Comfort with going to trial

Find out how many of their cases go to trial and the success rate of those that do.

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### Your expected role

Ask the attorney what expectations they will have of you. There may be several things they will expect you to do, but some attorneys may not welcome extensive client involvement.

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### Payment

How do they expect to be paid? Are there any fees or terms that would change if the case goes to trial, for example? Are expenses billed separately? What about costs for expert witnesses and other resources that may be necessary?

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### Handling disagreements

If you and the attorney disagree on accepting a settlement, for example, what happens?

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OTHER QUESTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

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