



# How to Use This Attorney Interview Worksheet

## *What should you ask during your initial consultation?*

Choosing a personal injury lawyer may be the biggest decision of your entire case. When you set up your meeting with the attorneys who may potentially represent you, be prepared with questions to ask.

After an initial phone call, most attorneys will want to schedule a face-to-face meeting. This initial consultation is usually free of charge, and it's a chance for you to get to know the attorney (and vice versa).

We recommend printing out a worksheet for each attorney you interview, that way you can write down their response and refer to your notes later when deciding who to hire.

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# ATTORNEY CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

## WORKSHEET

Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Law firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Consult date/time: \_\_\_\_\_



### Do you have references?

Ask to speak with former clients with cases similar to yours. Also, check independent directories and reviews to see what past clients say.

#### NOTES:

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### Who will be assigned to my 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.

#### NOTES:

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### What makes your firm different?

Ask about the firm's age, size, experience, connections with doctors and resources to pay expert witnesses. Awards and leadership roles in legal organizations can also be indicators of overall experience.

#### NOTES:

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### Are you bar-certified, in good standing, and for how long?

Find out how long they've been licensed to practice law in your state, and if they participate in the local bar association. Ask if they have ever been censured or disciplined in the past.

#### NOTES:

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### Do you think my case will go to trial?

Ask what settlements they have obtained in similar cases in the past (and remember that 95% of personal injury cases are settled without a trial).

#### NOTES:

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# ATTORNEY CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

## WORKSHEET



**Are you familiar with the laws in this area?**

Have they tried or settled similar cases in your city or county? What was the outcome? Are they familiar with the laws in your area?

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**Have you handled cases like mine before?**

How many cases have they handled similar to your type of accident or injury? Do other lawyers refer cases to them?

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**How long do you expect my case to take?**

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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**Are you prepared to go to trial, if necessary?**

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

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**What are your fees and payment structure?**

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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# ATTORNEY CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

## WORKSHEET

 **What would my role be in this case?**  
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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 **How much do you think my case is worth?**  
Does the attorney think you have a strong case? What range of compensation do they think they can win for you based on past cases?

NOTES:

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### AFTER THE CONSULTATION, ASK YOURSELF:

**Did the attorney make me feel comfortable?**

On a scale of 1-10 (1 being not comfortable and 10 being very comfortable), how comfortable did you feel talking to them about explicit details of your case? Did they answer your questions to your satisfaction? Were they a good listener?

**Circle your answer.**

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

OTHER QUESTIONS:

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