

Preparing for your legal consultation? Knowing the questions to ask your lawyer during a consultation can make finding the right attorney much easier. This worksheet equips you with key questions to guide your conversation, maximize understanding, and chart a clear course for your case.

## 1 What kind of experience do you have with similar cases?

You need to know how comfortable the lawyer is with cases like yours. While every case is somewhat different, the attorney will likely find some similarities between your case and a case they handled previously.

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- *Where did you attend law school?*
- *What types of cases do you handle?*

## 2 What would be your strategy for my case?

Most lawyers do not offer specific legal advice in an initial consultation, but they should explain the possible approaches to handling your case. They may also offer a general overview of the strategy they will follow.

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- *What strategies have you used for similar cases in the past?*
- *How long do you think this case could take using this strategy?*

### 3 Are there any alternatives to going to court?

Especially in personal injury cases, there is often a good chance you can avoid going to court. A lawyer will usually try to negotiate a fair and just settlement with the insurance company before resorting to filing a lawsuit. Even once you file a suit, mediation and arbitration may be possible. Both of these options can help you avoid going to court.

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- *What percentage of your cases has settled out of court?*
- *Will you prepare my case for court even if you plan to settle out of court?*

### 4 What are my possible outcomes?

Some lawyers may only tell you what you want to hear. The right lawyer, however, will give you an honest look at how your case may conclude. No lawyer can give you an exact value of your case or promise that you will reach an out-of-court settlement, but they can offer possibilities based on his/her experience.

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- *Do see us running into any major issues?*
- *What are our chances of avoiding a lawsuit?*

### 5 Who will actually handle my case?

While you may meet with one lawyer, others in the legal office may work on your case. This often includes other attorneys and paralegals. You will want to know who your point of contact is within the office, and the experience of those working on your case.

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- *Who should I call with questions about my case?*
- *Will you represent me in settlement negotiations and/or court?*

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### What is my role in my case?

Attorneys desire different levels of participation from their clients. Your attorney probably will not want you to talk to witnesses or the insurance company without prior approval, but they may need you to compile documentation of your injuries and other similar tasks.

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- *What do you need from me to build the strongest possible case?*
- *What should I avoid in order to win my claim?*

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### How much will this cost me?

It is never fun to talk about money, but this is the time to do it. Most personal injury lawyers charge based on contingency. This means you pay nothing until you receive your settlement. There may, however, be another fee structure or additional fees you need to pay.

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- *What is your fee structure? Contingency? Hourly? Flat fee?*
- *Can you give me an estimate of the total cost of my case?*

**Ready to talk to us?**

**CALL 215-642-2335**

for a free consultation