

# What to Look for in a Lawyer/Attorney

**Disclaimer:** Each legal matter is unique with different facts and issues; it is nearly impossible for an attorney to advise you from the beginning of a case (with the exception of criminal defense work) how much their attorney fees are going to be (unless it is a situation where there can be a set rate).

Furthermore, it is also difficult for an attorney to give anything other than an approximation as to how long it will take to reach a resolution in a Court case; there are factors outside your attorney's control, such as the opposing party and the Court.

## 12 Questions To Ask Your Potential Lawyer

from [www.lawyers.com](http://www.lawyers.com)

Here is a handy checklist of basic questions to ask before you hire a lawyer:

- What is your experience in this field?
- Have you handled matters like mine?
- What are the possible outcomes of my case?
- What are my alternatives in resolving the matter?
- Approximately how long will it take to resolve?
- Do you recommend mediation or arbitration?\*
- What are your rates and how often will you bill me?
- What is a ballpark figure for the total bill, including fees and expenses?
- How will you keep me informed of progress?
- What kind of approach will you take to resolve the matter - aggressive and unyielding, or will you be more inclined to reach a reasonable settlement?
- Who else in the office will be working on my case?
- Can junior attorneys or paralegals in the office handle some of the substantive legal work at a lower rate?

After finding the lawyer for your case, there are things you can do as a client to make for a positive experience in the legal system. For tips on how to be a responsible client, click here.