



THE 11 MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

**TO ASK BEFORE YOU HIRE THAT
PERSONAL INJURY LAWYER**



KAY L. VAN WEY, ATTORNEY AT LAW

THE 11 MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU HIRE THAT PERSONAL INJURY LAWYER

You or a loved one has been hurt. You're struggling to recover and looking for justice and compensation. So you've decided to speak with a personal injury attorney about a potential lawsuit.

Finding the right attorney may seem overwhelming. The best counsel will create a positive experience that leaves you feeling vindicated and compensated for your suffering. The wrong attorney could become a source of stress, leave money on the table, or worse, lose your case entirely.

Before you sign any paperwork, it's important to get the right information. You need a resource to help you choose the best person to represent your case. Use the following questions as a guide when you interview potential attorneys.

1. Do you have experience with cases like mine?

Texas attorneys are limited as to what they can say about their past results. They can't suggest that they'll get a similar result for you when, truthfully, all cases are different. But by asking if they have experience, you can make sure that your type of case isn't the attorney's first rodeo.

2. How many cases like mine do you handle each year?

You want an attorney who is experienced with claims like yours, but not one who churns out so many that they can't handle yours personally. Furthermore, ask what percentage of their business comes from cases in the same genre (medical malpractice, on the job injuries, etc.).

3. Do you ever turn down cases like mine? If so, why?

A good attorney chooses his/her clients carefully. If there's no claim, they don't string you along. Your attorney should be able to list some reasons why they would turn

down a client. (For instance, a good attorney would turn down a client who was just seeking revenge.)

4. What are your credentials?

Expensive television or radio advertising does not mean an attorney has experience. You wouldn't hire a doctor just because they purchased a large billboard. Ask about the attorney's formal credentials. Verify if that they are board certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Ask about the attorney's AVVO rating. AVVO is an independent rating system that ranks lawyers on a scale of 0 (terrible) to 10 (superb). The rating model is based on the attorney's experience, history of disciplinary actions, and the 11 attorney's achievements. Beware of the lawyer with no AVVO rating or a low AVVO rating.

Finally, ask about the attorney's Martindale Hubbell rating. This score reflects how the lawyer's peers (adversaries, colleagues and competitors) think of their abilities and ethics. A lawyer can receive an A, B, C, or no rating. A "V" designation means they have high ethics. Only work with lawyers who have an AV rating.

5. May I contact some of your past clients?

Some lawyers are excellent salesmen, so you need to go to their past clients for unbiased information. Ask for references and actually talk to those people. Ask questions like these:

- Did the lawyer communicate with them about their case?
- Was the lawyer hard working?
- Were they pleased with the results?
- Did they form a personal bond with their lawyer?

6. Who will be handling my case?

You've probably seen slick advertisements of big national law firms. They put their founding attorneys on the commercial, but you wouldn't work with them. You would be assigned to a "claims manager" or "paralegal" who would manage your case. There is nothing wrong with an attorney who hires staff, but you should have some access to him/her.

7. What is your contingency fee?

Your personal injury attorney should only charge a fee if you collect money. Most fees range between 25% and 40%. This percentage is negotiable based on the severity of the damages and the likelihood of recovery. Make sure to get a guarantee that you'll only pay costs if you win.

8. When will my case be filed?

Some attorneys will let a case sit idle if there's no looming deadline (like a statute of limitations). They are content to make you wait while they deal with other work. You want to make sure your matter will be handled as quickly as the court system allows.

9. Do you think my case will go to trial?

While a settlement is often ideal in many cases, your attorney should be 100% willing to go to trial if necessary. An attorney who is reluctant to go to trial isn't going to fight hard to get the whole compensation you're entitled to. He/she might be willing to settle for less to avoid the hassle and expense of a trial. Ask about how far he/she is really willing to go.

10. How much is my case worth?

The purpose of this question is not so you can begin mentally spending the money. Ask this question to determine if the attorney is realistic and honest, or if he/she is willing to promise much more than you can reasonably hope to collect.

11. Do you foresee any challenges with my case?

Even if you are clearly entitled to compensation, every case has challenges. Insurance companies fight tooth and nail to avoid paying. A good attorney should be honest with you about challenges and potential obstacles.

ABOUT KAY VAN WEY

Kay Van Wey is a veteran personal injury lawyer, having practiced in the field for more than 25 years. She represents good people and fights for good causes.

The results she has received for her clients has qualified her for membership in the Million Dollar Advocates Forum. She has been named a Texas Super Lawyer every year since 2003. She has an "AV" rating by Martindale Hubbell and a 10 (highest rating) by AVO.

"I am proud of the honors I have been bestowed over the years," she says. "However, the thing that makes me the most proud are the relationships I've formed with my clients. Truly knowing that I have helped them navigate a tragedy is what keeps me going. What some of my clients don't know is that they touch my life as well."



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If you or a loved one have been involved in a serious accident, experienced a life-altering injury, or been harmed by a medical facility, device, or prescription drug, YOU deserve justice.

Contact us using the button below or call our office directly at 855-283-4985.

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