

Frequently Asked Questions About Hiring a Personal Injury Lawyer

Get answers to common questions when choosing legal representation after an injury.

Based on Interview Questions by McCormick and Murphy

Q: What should I ask a personal injury lawyer before hiring them?

A: You should ask about their experience with cases similar to yours, their fee structure, how they communicate, and their strategy for your case. Understanding these aspects will help you make an informed decision.

Q: How much experience should my personal injury lawyer have?

A: Look for a lawyer with significant experience specifically in personal injury law and, ideally, with cases that match the specifics of your situation. This ensures they understand the nuances of your claim.

Q: What are common fee structures for personal injury lawyers?

A: Most personal injury lawyers work on a contingency fee basis, meaning they only get paid if you win your case. Fees are typically a percentage of the settlement or award.

Q: How will the lawyer communicate with me about my case?

A: Inquire about their communication methods and frequency. A good lawyer will keep you informed about your case's progress and be accessible to answer your questions.

Q: What is a contingency fee?

A: A contingency fee means the lawyer's payment is contingent upon winning your case. If you do not receive a settlement or court award, you typically owe no attorney fees.

Q: Should I worry about upfront costs when hiring a personal injury lawyer?

A: With contingency fees, you generally don't pay upfront legal fees. However, be aware of potential costs for case expenses like filing fees or expert witnesses, and clarify who covers these.

Q: How does a lawyer determine the value of my personal injury claim?

A: Lawyers assess claim value by considering factors like medical expenses, lost wages, pain and suffering, and future care needs. They use their experience and legal knowledge to estimate a fair settlement amount.

Q: What is the lawyer's strategy for my specific case?

A: A lawyer should be able to outline their general approach and strategy for your case. This might include investigation, negotiation, and, if necessary, litigation.

Q: How long does a personal injury case typically take?

A: The duration of a personal injury case varies greatly depending on complexity, negotiations, and court schedules. Some cases settle quickly, while others can take years.

Q: What if I can't afford a lawyer?

A: Many personal injury lawyers offer free initial consultations and work on a contingency fee basis, meaning you pay nothing unless you win. This makes legal representation accessible.

Q: What information should I bring to my first meeting with a lawyer?

A: Bring any documents related to your injury, such as accident reports, medical records, bills, and insurance information. Also, prepare a list of questions you want to ask.

Q: What is the statute of limitations for personal injury claims?

A: The statute of limitations sets a deadline for filing a lawsuit. It varies by state and the type of claim, so it's crucial to discuss this with your lawyer promptly.

Resources & Further Reading

Related guides for these FAQs:

■ Questions to Ask a Personal Injury Lawyer (Infographic)

<https://storage.googleapis.com/mccormick-and-murphy-checklists-20260706-115bde/mccormick-and-murphy/Infographic/interview-questions-infographic.pdf>

■ Questions to Ask a Personal Injury Lawyer (Process Flow)

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Choose the right personal injury lawyer by asking the right questions.