

Hiring an Attorney

A step-by-step guide to finding and hiring the right legal counsel.

Based on Hire Attorney by McCormick and Murphy

Step 1: Identify Your Legal Needs

Determine the specific legal issue you are facing. Understanding your situation clearly is the first step in finding the right attorney.

- Consider the type of law involved (e.g., family law, personal injury, criminal defense).



Step 2: Seek Recommendations

Ask friends, family, or colleagues if they have recommendations for attorneys they have worked with and trusted.

- Bar associations often provide referral services.



Step 3: Research Potential Attorneys

Look into the background, experience, and specialization of potential attorneys. Check their websites and professional profiles.

- Verify their standing with the state bar association.



Step 4: Schedule Initial Consultations

Contact several attorneys to schedule an initial meeting or phone call to discuss your case.

- Prepare a list of questions for the attorney.



Step 5: Evaluate During Consultation

Assess the attorney's communication style, understanding of your case, and overall professionalism during the consultation.

- Do they listen attentively?
- Do they explain legal concepts clearly?



Step 6: Discuss Fees and Costs

Understand the attorney's fee structure, including hourly rates, retainer fees, contingency fees, and any potential additional costs.

- Ask for a written fee agreement.



Step 7: Make Your Decision

Based on your consultations and evaluation, choose the attorney you feel most confident in to represent you.

- Trust your instincts.



Step 8: Formalize the Agreement

Sign a retainer agreement or contract that outlines the scope of services, fees, and terms of representation.

- Ensure all agreed-upon terms are in writing.

Resources & Further Reading

Related guides for this process:

■ McCormick and Murphy: Hiring an Attorney FAQ (Infographic)

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■ Hiring an Attorney FAQ's

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Choose an attorney who is experienced, communicative, and a good fit for your specific legal needs.