



The FindLaw Guide to How to Hire a Divorce Attorney

The FindLaw Guide to How to Hire a Divorce Attorney

A qualified divorce attorney can help you obtain child custody or visitation, get a fair property division, prevent unforeseen problems, and generally make the divorce process as painless as possible. But how do you find the right attorney for you? This guide can help.

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Introduction

A divorce can be one of the most stressful events imaginable. Even in the best divorce scenarios, difficult family and economic issues need to be resolved reasonably and objectively. Still, you can ease the stress that comes with a divorce by having an experienced divorce attorney on your side. FindLaw and its directory of attorneys can help match you with the right lawyer.

Do You Need a Divorce Lawyer?

The first step in hiring a divorce lawyer is figuring out if you really need an attorney. Sometimes, you may be able to work

out all the differences in the divorce yourself, without the help of an attorney. The advantages of tackling the divorce yourself are that you have control over the vital issues and can save money that would otherwise go to the attorney.

However, there are certain situations when hiring a divorce lawyer makes sense and you should probably do it. If there is a problem with abuse, whether it is spousal, child or substance abuse, you should probably hire an attorney. They can help get you the protection you need during the divorce. In addition, if you think that your spouse is lying about certain issues in the divorce, or is being vindictive, you may want to hire an attorney that can help you cope with the situation and also protect your interests.

Generally speaking, it can also be wise to hire an attorney if your spouse has already hired a divorce lawyer. Especially if your divorce involves children or complicated financial issues, it can be hard to deal with these complex and emotional issues when you are faced with a seasoned divorce attorney. You can learn more about situations where you may want to [hire a divorce lawyer here](#).

What a Divorce Lawyer Will Do for You

Generally, a divorce attorney will evaluate your divorce case with you -- explaining what you can expect and identifying your options. At every stage in the divorce process, your attorney will represent you zealously, and will act to protect both your legal rights and your personal interests, all with the goal of ensuring that the outcome of your divorce is as favorable for you as possible.

Hiring the Right Divorce Lawyer

Divorce lawyers handle a variety of divorce issues, including settlement agreements, child custody/child visitation, division of property and finances, and spousal support. When looking for a divorce lawyer, you should concentrate on the lawyer's expertise, skill level, commitment, and location or area served.



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Because divorce proceedings require divulging many aspects of your personal life and financial assets, you should feel comfortable speaking freely in your lawyer's presence, and feel confident in the lawyer's ability to handle your case. Your divorce lawyer should also have experience handling child support cases (if kids are involved) and/or division of property issues (if applicable).

It is also important to know the attorney's style and divorce philosophy, such as whether combative or cooperative, and whether the attorney offers divorce alternatives, such as mediation or other out-of-court proceedings. Not all divorces have to end in a nasty battle, and an attorney's philosophy may make the difference in the long-term outcome of your relationship with your ex-spouse.

Lastly, you will want to know how the attorney charges for his or her services. Not all divorce attorneys are the same, and a very experienced and reputable divorce attorney will probably cost more than an average divorce lawyer. In addition, not all divorces are the same, and a complicated divorce involving a lot of assets will probably cost more than a relatively simple divorce. You can [learn more about hiring a divorce lawyer here](#).

Questions to Ask a Divorce Lawyer

Before selecting a divorce lawyer, you should feel comfortable enough to speak with him or her concerning all aspects of your family's situation. Below are some of the questions you should ask before hiring a divorce attorney:

- What is involved in the divorce process and how long does it typically last?
- What percentage of your practice is devoted to divorce cases?
- How many divorce cases have you tried?
- What is your experience handling child custody/visitation cases and/or working with high net worth individuals (if applicable)?

- Can you give me an estimate of how much my divorce will cost? court will generally split the property according to state rules on property division like whether the property is split evenly (community property states) or distributed equitably.

How to Find a Divorce Lawyer

There are numerous ways to find a qualified divorce lawyer. Referrals from friends and family or online research may be a good start. However, not all websites are the same and unless you live in the same state as your friend or relative, a referral may not be of use. Instead, you may wish to find a local divorce lawyer using one of several quality-assured lawyer directories, such as [FindLaw's divorce lawyer directory](#), devoted to connecting you to an experienced lawyer in your area.

For More Information

Regarding finding a divorce attorney and other leave related issues, visit <http://family.findlaw.com/divorce/divorce-help/>

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