

Questions to Ask Your Divorce Attorney

1. What percent of your practice is devoted to divorce? How many cases currently?
2. Which counties do you practice in? Are you a member of American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML)?
3. How would you describe your style? Any niches?
4. What do you think about Mediation? Litigation? Collaborative Law Process? What percentage of each is your typical case load?
5. What is your experience in cases involving custody? High Net Worth Cases? Closely held businesses? (as appropriate)
6. Tell me about cases where a client had similar circumstances to mine. What was the best outcome? What was the worst? What do you think is most likely for me?
7. My spouse is using _____, have you ever worked with, or against him/her? What is your relationship with him/her?
8. Based on the information I've given you, what approach do you think would work best for our family – mediation, collaborative divorce, or traditional representation?
9. Would others in your firm be working on my case? Who are they, what work will they do, and what are their backgrounds?
10. How do you prefer to communicate? How long will you take to return emails and phone calls? How do I reach you in an emergency? What do you consider an emergency?
11. What is your hourly rate? What is the shortest time period for which I can be billed? What are the rates of the others working on my case? Will I be billed for time firm members brief each other? Can I make payments? Do you accept credit cards?
12. What costs other than your own do you expect will be involved (i.e. private investigators, forensic accountants), and how will you charge me for them?
13. How can I keep the cost of my divorce down? Are there tasks that I can do myself to reduce the amount you will charge?
14. Is a retainer required? If so, how much? How often do you bill?
15. What is the likelihood that my spouse will have to pay my legal fees?
16. Can you provide me with references?