

Legally Speaking

by Stephanie Bandoske



Choosing a family law attorney can seem like a daunting task. You are going to be sharing intimate details about your marriage, children, finances and your life with someone who you will be trusting to help you navigate through the emotional and financial turmoil of a family law case. Let me help you with some questions to consider when you are interviewing family law attorneys.

First, you need to feel comfortable with your attorney. You are likely to be spending a lot of time with them, so you need to feel

you can communicate with them effectively and they respect your concerns and fears. Do they listen to you? Do they address your concerns? Do they share their email and cell phone information so you can contact them with questions or emergencies?

Second, look for someone who is experienced in your type of case. You wouldn't take your car to the beautician to get fixed, so make sure your choice for an attorney actually spends a majority of their time in family law cases.

Is your case complex? If so, you want to make sure your attorney has the knowledge to understand the complex issues that happen when you divide business assets or need to trace your separate property. Financial experts may need to be hired to help value your marital assets or review a long history of financial documents to make sure you can prove what was yours before marriage. Does your attorney know the forensic experts that are best, to include their strengths and weaknesses?

If you are considering a custody fight over your children, does your attorney actually go to trial on these types of cases? Do they help you understand the realistic financial and emotional costs of being involved in protracted litigation? Ask them about trials before a judge or jury, and which might be more beneficial to a case like yours.

Finally, is the attorney you are interviewing the attorney who will actually be working on your case and representing you in trial? You will also want to know if your attorney works alone or do they have the benefit of colleagues and staff that can assist on your case to give you the support of a team should you need them.

Family law litigation can be a costly and emotionally taxing time. Make sure you pick an attorney who will have the experience and skills to give you the advice and attention your case needs.

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