



Suggested Questions When Hiring an Attorney

The following questions can be used to evaluate an attorney. Feel free to tailor these to your specific situation.

1. EXPERIENCE

- a. What percentage of your practice is personal injury/wrongful death cases?
- b. How long have you been doing this work?
- c. How many cases have you brought in the past five years similar to mine? (Ask the attorney to be specific.)
- d. How many No-Fault claims have you arbitrated in the past three years, and what was the outcome?
- e. Have you taught, written or lectured on local vehicular or traffic laws? (If yes, ask the attorney to explain further.)
- f. What experience do you have in relation to [insert own situation]? (e.g., hit-and-run, crash with a school bus or taxi, etc.)

2. CIVIL COURT OUTCOMES

- a. During the last three years, approximately what percentage of the personal injury cases at your firm have you settled and how many went to trial?
- b. When did you last go to trial? Did you try your own cases? What percent were successful?
- c. In what percentage of cases have you obtained personal payments from defendants in excess of available liability or other insurance?

3. WRONGFUL DEATH

- a. Can you please describe any successful, relevant experience in wrongful death cases that you have had in the past three years?

4. COMPLEX CASES

- a. What is your experience and success related to cases against the municipality for driver negligence (police, sanitation, etc..)?
- b. What is your experience and success related to cases against the municipality for road defects?
- c. What is your experience and success related to cases against the transit/public bus system?

5. MINIMAL/NO INSURANCE

- a. What will you do if the driver only has the minimum liability insurance and there is no one else to sue?
- b. How many low-insurance claims have you brought to trial in the past three years?
- c. What experience does your firm have with an uninsured motorist fund or the state office of crime victims services (if applicable)?

6. CRIMINAL CHARGES

- a. Will you assist with the criminal charges, if this is something I want to pursue?
- b. How many times in recent years have you assisted with bringing criminal charges?
- c. What specifically will you do?
- d. Will you attend meetings with the District Attorney's/local prosecutor's office?

7. ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS (E.G., DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE HEARING)

- a. Will you assist with the local administrative option if this is something I want to pursue?
- b. How many times in recent years have you done this?
- c. What specifically will you do?

8. PLAINTIFF-FOCUSED PRACTICE

- a. Is your practice primarily a plaintiff practice (meaning do they only represent people like me)?
- b. Do you also represent the interests of insurance companies or corporate defendants? (If so, how often?)
- c. Are you or your firm a member of any plaintiff attorney organizations (e.g., American Association of Justice)?

9. COMMITMENT TO SAFE STREETS ADVOCACY

- a. Are you involved in safe streets advocacy?
- b. Are you on the board or active in any organization that promotes street safety?
- c. Have you provided any pro bono work on behalf of any street safety group?

10. GENERAL INFORMATION

- a. Can you share more about your firm's history and experience?
- b. How many attorneys work on car crashes? How many attorneys are there overall in your firm?

www.familiesforsafestreeets.org/attorneyquestions
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Families for Safe Streets (FSS) confronts the epidemic of traffic violence by advocating for life-saving changes and providing support to those who have been impacted by crashes. Comprised of individuals who have been injured or lost loved ones, FSS was founded in 2014 in New York City and is growing as a national movement with chapters across the country.