Consumer Report

The 6 Critical Questions

to Ask
BEFORE Hiring
a Personal Injury Attorney

Provided by:



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Why This Decision Is So Important

Hiring the right Personal Injury Attorney can be one of the most important decisions you make.

When you make the right decision, you will save a lot of time, money, and energy. You and your loved ones will experience the freedom of knowing that you are going to get the best representation, and you can actually rest easy knowing that someone has your best interests in mind.

Alternatively, if you choose to hire the wrong attorney, your troubles have just begun. We cannot begin to tell you how many horror stories we have heard from well-meaning people like you who hired a disreputable firm. In an attempt to save money, they end up losing out in the long run.

The 6 questions in this report outline what to look for in an attorney who specializes in Personal Injury. Use them as your guide to choose wisely. Above all, use the questions to show you who will give you the specialized attention that you or your family member deserves. Every case is different. Every person requires special attention.

Sadly, the advertising from many law firms often leaves you with a loss as to where to go to find good, competent help.

That's why we wrote this Special Report for you.

- First, we understand that you are in a time in your life where you need competent help.
- Second, we know that are looking to make the right decision.
- Third, we know that you are busy and need to find help quickly.

This Special Report will arm you with the right information to make the best decision when it comes to your Personal Injury needs. If, after reading the Special Report, you find that our firm meets your needs, that's wonderful. We would be glad to help. However, if you choose to find another law firm (and you base that decision on what you read here), we will still have accomplished our mission. That's because we truly understand your situation, we care about you, and, more than anything, we want you to find a firm that meets your specific needs and that will get you the justice you deserve.

Let's get started. Here are the 6 things you must ask an attorney before choosing to work with them for your Personal Injury needs.



Question #1

Are you qualified to help with my particular Personal Injury case? Do you have experience with my type of Personal Injury case?

Why is this so important? Simply, there are many lawyers who may be qualified to help you with a few of the Personal Injury cases that arise. However, what you really want is someone who is familiar helping people like you and who has handled cases like yours. Ask a prospective attorney for some examples of cases like yours that they have handled successfully. If they can't show you any successful cases, then it's time to move on.

Heiting & Irwin has handled cases like yours. We have been handling personal injury cases since 1976, handling a broad range of cases throughout California and in other states. We have recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for our clients.

Question #2

Is timely service delivered, and how is it delivered? How long can I expect to wait?

When dealing with your Personal Injury needs, the last thing you want to do is to be treated like a number. You want specialized, personal, 1-on-1 care...and you want it fast! You want someone who cares about you and your family. And, more than anything, you want a firm with the expertise to get the job done right. With many "big box" firms (and even some small ones), it can take weeks to get an appointment. Then, your case file may get lost in the shuffle of their really big cases, or you may just get sent off to a clerk, and your care suffers as a result. Most firms will promise timely service, but be sure to ask them exactly what you can expect. Ask how long the service will last. Ask them how long until you can expect to be seen and how long it will take for action on your case.

Remember that Personal Injury claims often have strict time limits. If you miss this question, you could

be barred from pursuing a Personal Injury claim completely.

First, we care! James Heiting became an attorney with the express desire and expectation that clients must come first.

Communication and understanding are paramount.

Personalized care and attention is a must. Our goal is to treat every client like a beloved family member.



Question #3

Are you a member of any local, state, or federal Bar Associations?

These associations are thoroughly involved in defining the scope of Personal Injury law through assisting legislators in creating the law itself. Bar Associations also provide a collaborative environment for their members to learn and succeed in the field of Personal Injury law.

If an attorney says they work in Personal Injury Law, but they are not listed with these associations, there is a reason why. That reason likely spells trouble for you and your case if you choose to work with them.



All attorneys in our firm are very active in the community as well as local and national legal groups including: The American Bar Association, State Bar of California, The Federal Bar Association, The American Board of Trial Advocates, County Bar Associations, Riverside County Barristers Association, Leo A. Deegan American Inn of Court, to name a few. The judges and lawyers who rate the performance of other judges and lawyers give Heiting & Irwin the very highest ratings possible (Martindale Hubbell AV-Preeminent, AVVO Superb Rating).

Question #4

Is your practice focused on Personal Injury?

Be sure to find an attorney who works with Personal Injury cases on a regular basis, is competent, and (this is important) is dedicated in their Personal Injury work. A lot of attorneys handle a wide variety of cases in a number of practice areas. That's fine, but it becomes more difficult for those attorneys to become truly knowledgeable in one area. When it comes to your Personal Injury case, doesn't it make sense to have someone on board whose practice is focused on Personal Injury law?



Heiting & Irwin is a personal injury law firm. Because this is the focus of our practice, we are well-equipped to handle all types of personal injury claims. We have extensive experience successfully handling serious personal injury matters with these life-changing injuries.

Question #5

What are my options if I want to make a claim for my injuries?

The attorney you ask this question should be able to knowledgeably give you some of your options based on the basic details of your case. The attorney should let you know about the strict time limits involved in personal injury and your options for making your claim, either in small claims court or with an attorney. Of course, the attorney won't be able to tell you everything without knowing the specific details of your case, but if they can't tell you anything...that's not a good sign.

Heiting & Irwin is an experienced, successful, and focused, personal injury law firm and our lawyers would be happy to discuss some of these options right away to help you make your decisions.

Question #6

Who will I be interacting with at your firm?

This last question could be the most important one you ask. Many law firms will shove you off to work with a clerk for weeks on end, and you may only get one meeting (if that) from the actual attorney. The fact is that you want to find a firm where the attorney has set aside time to get to know you and to work with you personally. The location of the firm is often the key to this accessibility and individualized attention. Often, unsuspecting clients choose a distant firm based upon a great TV commercial or other advertisement they saw. However, if the firm isn't local, you won't have easy access to your attorney...or you'll have to drive for hours to attend every meeting. Just because a firm has a great TV commercial doesn't mean they are automatically the right fit for you.

While every firm will have clerks and assistants doing work on your case, you still want to get face-to-face, real access to your attorney. There is nothing like it. That's why we always make it a point to get to know our clients as people...as real human beings. Not only does this help them, but it greatly assists our team in getting justice for each client.

At Heiting & Irwin, we always make it a point to get to know our clients as people... as real human beings. Not only does this help them, but it greatly assists our team in getting justice for each client. The attorneys and clerical and support staff at Heiting & Irwin have been handling personal injury matters since 1976. Additionally, we have our own in-house investigator. We have long-term members, many whom have been with us over 20 years. This gives us stability, resources, and a reputation for treating our clients as clients should be treated – part of the Heiting & Irwin family. At times, you will be interacting with all of these persons; however, when you have specific questions regarding your case, you will be interacting, on the phone or face-to-face, with the attorney or attorneys handling your matter.

Summary

When considering an attorney who specializes in Personal Injury, be sure that you ask ALL of the 6 questions above.

How an attorney answer these questions will tell you a lot about how they will handle your needs.

Don't be afraid to ask these 6 questions. By asking these important questions, you will be able to judge whether or not the firm is committed to effective communication and keeping clients informed throughout their case. Communication between you and your attorney will make it much more likely that you end up satisfied with the results of your case. Whichever firm you choose, make sure that the firm takes an interest in you as a person and is dedicated to your case and your goals.

From experience, our firm never has a problem when a prospective client asks us questions like these (or others). We are confident that we meet all of these qualifications above.

If you are looking for a firm that is competent in pursuing your case, a firm that holds to the highest ethical standards, and that cares for the your needs and concerns, then please give us a call. There's no obligation and no fine print. From experience, we know that no firm will serve you better. But we'll let you be the judge of that.

To get your specific questions answered, call the number below. We look forward to helping you or your loved one move through this stage of life by getting you the justice you deserve.



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