

# HOW TO CHOOSE THE BEST DIVORCE & FAMILY LAW ATTORNEY

## THE MUST-HAVE LIST OF QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU DECIDE

- Who will work on my case?
- What is the educational training and experience of the lawyers working on my case?
- How many cases like mine has your firm handled in the past year?
- How long will I wait to get an appointment when I need to come in again?
- What hours are you available on the telephone and in the office?
- What are your average fees in cases like mine?
- What do you think my case is going to cost?
- How often will I receive a bill to let me know what my costs are and what is going on in my case?
- What do the fees include?

- What are your policies with regard to:
  - a) payment of fees,
  - b) returning phone calls,
  - c) providing copies of all correspondence and other documents,
  - d) keeping me informed about the progress of my case?
- Are my goals realistic?
- What problems can you foresee?
- How will we solve those problems?
- How will you accomplish my goals?
- How long will it all take?
- How often do you go to court?
- Do you prefer litigating a case to settling the case?

**If you meet with more than one attorney in a consultation, consider asking the same question of each attorney so that you can compare their responses when making your decision.**

## ...AND HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD SHARE WITH YOUR ATTORNEY

**Be prepared to gather and share the following info**

1. Is there an existing case number?
2. Are there any pending hearings scheduled with the court?
3. If you have received legal documents, please provide them in advance or bring them with you.
4. If you have a court order already in place, please provide it in advance or bring a copy with you.
5. Are there any deadlines that you are aware of.
6. Is the opposing party represented? If so, by whom, and how have they treated you so far.
7. Is this an IV-D case (meaning the state has an interest in the child support case)?

**Access our  
information-packed  
pages at  
AtticusFamilyLaw.com**

**(651) 430-9700 and (218) 260-4215**

## WHAT DOES AN ATTORNEY NEED TO KNOW?

**Your attorney will really want to understand the dynamics and background of what has been going on with your family. For instance:**

- What are your current issues?
- Who are the players?
- How old are the children and how do they feel about the situation?
- What other considerations are there that are critical to your goals?

## TELL US YOUR STORY

- We want to understand what keeps you up at night.
- What is the ideal outcome?
- What are your primary objectives?
- How do you picture yourself 6-18 months from now?
- Where do you live?
- Where do you work?
- What is the schedule you have with your children?

## PAYMENT CONSIDERATIONS?

**Your attorney should try to accommodate a variety of needs and budgets. By having an idea in advance of your budget or budget parameters, we can design a solution that fits your needs.**

- Do you have special payment terms or parameters that you are looking for?
- What opportunities are there to get help from friends or family, to use credit cards, or to borrow from retirement?
- Do you have deadlines that must be met that have not been addressed already?
- Do you want to be introduced to a company that can lend you the legal funds?

For instance, if you are borrowing funds from a relative but it will take a week to get it to you, let us know.