

Finding A Good Divorce Lawyer

By Tom Norton, CPA, CDFA

Hiring a good lawyer is likely to be the most important decision you make in your divorce. Getting the wrong lawyer for your circumstances could end up costing you not only in attorney's fees, but also in a bad settlement and a lot of unnecessary heartache.

So how do you find a good divorce lawyer? First, let's talk about what *not* to do.

Don't go out and hire a lawyer you know just because you know him. He may be great for doing your will or getting that speeding ticket reduced to a loud muffler charge, but how much divorce experience does he have? You want someone who specializes in divorce, which means they spend at least 40% of their time on family law cases.

I can't emphasize this enough. There is simply too much to know (or not know) in a divorce case, and your lawyer's ignorance could literally cost you tens of thousands of dollars.

The lawyer you choose will also depend on whether you want to go to trial or you'd rather try an alternative solution, such as mediation or collaborative divorce. One size does not fit all when it comes to divorce lawyers.

The best way to find a good lawyer is from referrals from family and friends who have actually been through a divorce. Another great way is to ask that attorney friend of yours for a referral to an attorney who specializes in family law.

Once you get a few names, call them up and interview them on the phone. Ask about their approach to divorce cases, and how much of their practice is dedicated to divorce. Pay as much attention to their willingness to listen and answer questions as to their actual answers. Ask for an in-person interview if possible.

Your lawyer will be your partner throughout one of the most difficult times of your life. Make sure you choose your partner wisely.

For more information:

[The Divorce Financial Survival Series](#)