

FREE GUIDE
ON HOW TO SELECT A
PERSONAL INJURY LAWYER



CAMBRE & ASSOCIATES
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

Guide To Selecting A Personal Injury Attorney

Have you been injured in a car accident or recently sustained some other personal injury? While it may seem challenging, finding the right car accident lawyer can be a pretty simple process. In the following steps, you will be able to get through a very difficult time of your life relatively smoothly.

Remember to be your own biggest advocate. There is no such thing as a small case.

1. ASK AROUND

Get a personal referral. Speak to friends and colleagues and find out which attorneys they know and have used previously. Be sure to ask questions like:

- Were you happy with him or her?
- Did the lawyer keep you informed and up to date?
- Did you have regular communication with the attorney?
- Did he or she return your phone calls and emails in a timely fashion?
- Did the lawyer seem passionate about your case?

If the answer to even one of these questions is no, strongly consider looking elsewhere.

2. DO YOUR RESEARCH

Once you get a referral, don't forget to research the attorney's credentials. Conduct an Internet search for an experienced personal injury attorney in Atlanta or for the best car accident lawyer in your area. Then, be sure to read the various websites and be sure to spend time looking at the lawyer's credentials.

To determine if the attorney would be a good fit for you, consider the following:

Significant experience. Has the attorney handled your type of case before? Does he regularly go to trial? Is he willing to go to trial or will he push hard to settle your case? It is well known that most cases settle. However, while many cases should settle, not all of them do. You need a lawyer who is known for a willingness to try cases, even difficult ones. You would not be afraid of a dog that didn't bare its fangs. A claims adjuster is not afraid of a lawyer who won't try a case. Ask for specifics.



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Significant credentials. While it is important that you have a good relationship with your lawyer, you are not hiring him to be your friend. You are hiring an advocate. You need to make sure you retain a lawyer with a proven track record of success. Look for credentials such as board certifications, peer ratings from other attorneys, ratings from [Avvo](#) or [Martindale](#) and other legal awards. You have every right to expect, require and demand your lawyer be highly qualified. Simply getting your license to practice doesn't mean you are qualified to handle a case properly.

The money to finance your case. Most people don't consider this when retaining a lawyer. However, car accident lawsuits are expensive. You want to make sure your lawyer can afford to handle your case from start to finish and that finances don't influence his decisions. Taking depositions and hiring experts are expensive. Make sure you retain a lawyer who can afford to do so. How do you do this? Take a look around his office. Does he have a nice building, sufficient space, good location, and proper staff? If a lawyer doesn't have these things, he likely can't afford them. Hiring a lawyer who can't afford your case may result in your claim being compromised. His financial challenges are not yours.

The passion to handle your case. There are literally hundreds of lawyers to choose from. You want a lawyer who will fight for you or your family, placing higher value on your recovery than his bank account. Many lawyers will tell you what you want to hear to get your case. Then, when he opens the file and realizes your injuries are not severe or there is a lack of insurance coverage, he quickly loses interest. This is not who you want to be your lawyer.

Regular communication. Remember that you are hiring a lawyer, not a paralegal. Make sure you hire a lawyer who will take your calls, return your emails and answer your questions. Ask about the attorney's policy with regard to this. For instance, will he return all calls and emails within 48 hours? Or will he have a regularly scheduled appointment, either by phone or in person, every six weeks? When you know what is going on with your case, it will help you to get through a very difficult time in your life and let you focus on your recovery. Complaints about lawyers are almost always the same – the lawyer won't talk to you and you don't know what was going on with your case. Don't let that be you.

