

Top 10 Questions to ask a Collaborative Divorce Lawyer



Before your initial consultation it is essential that you prepare a list of questions to ask. The better prepared you are, the more likely it is that you will make a good decision regarding who to work with.

1. What percentage of your practice involves family law cases? Are you certified as a family law specialist?
2. Are you trained or certified in collaborative law and/or mediation? What percentage of your family law work involves collaborative cases? Are you a member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, the Association for Conflict Resolution, or the Alternative Dispute Resolution section of a Bar Association?
3. Do you abide by the standards of practice set out by the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals in *IACP Minimum Standards for Collaborative Practitioners*?
4. Do you recommend that parents attend co-parenting education classes in order to learn how to share custody peacefully and thereby avoid costly fighting later?
5. Will I be working with you directly? If not, who will handle my case? When can I interview that person?
6. What do you charge/hour? Are there different billing rates for the different types of work that you might do for my case (e.g. going to court)? Will I get a detailed invoice from you on a monthly basis?
7. In total what is your estimate as to what my case will cost? What is your policy on setting up a payment plan?
8. Do I need to pay a retainer? Can you please explain your retainer policy?
9. Do you have malpractice insurance? Is your legal license in good standing?
10. What will you expect of me? How can I help to bring these problems to an end in a way that is good for the whole family?