

5 Question to Ask Your Lawyer

1

What experience do you have in cases like mine and when did you do those cases?

Don't be too trusting when it comes to a lawyer's specialist experience. Don't assume from a large office and a smart suit that they know how to handle your case. Ask questions! If they're able to tell you all about their experience of taking on recent matters very similar to yours, then you'll feel more self-assured that your matter will be in safe hands. At Coaching Law we can help you ask the right questions. Visit www.coachinglaw.com for more information.

2

What strategy do you propose in my case?

This will illuminate whether your lawyer knows what they're talking about. Can they advise you well enough to get you to where you want to be? Don't be afraid to note down the strategy they're proposing with pen and paper. This will be useful if you want a second opinion.

For more information about legal strategy please visit www.coachinglaw.com.

3

How long will my case take?

A time estimate is useful for two main reasons:

- a) it will enable you to think of ways to stop the case from going on indefinitely; and
- b) as most lawyers work on an hourly rate, if you're able to see that time is dragging on and bring this to the attention of your lawyer, then you could save yourself a lot of money in unnecessary hours.

4

What will the fees and expenses be?

Talking about money can feel awkward and uncomfortable. However, in our experience, **the number one complaint that clients have is often to do with costs and not the work itself.**

Getting the hourly rate quote is not really asking about costs and nor is it necessarily a good thing to get a reduction on an hourly rate, because the lawyer could just spend a lot of hours on your matter, without any cap on costs. Don't be shy to ask for an estimate of the **overall cost**. For more information on this please see Legal Chat 3 on our blog: www.coachinglaw.com/legal-chat-3-the-cost-of-a-lawyer.

5

Can you provide references from other clients?

If a lawyer refuses to provide you with client references, then this could be a red flag.