

Divorce Worksheet

HOW TO HIRE A DOMESTIC RELATIONS ATTORNEY

Ask these 10 questions before you hire any divorce lawyer or family law attorney to handle your case.
A comparison of firms helps you make sure the attorney you're considering hiring measures up.

Questions to Ask	Massachusetts Family Law Group	Other Firms
1. Do you specialize in divorce work, or are divorces just a part of your practice? Family law, and divorce in particular, is a specialized area of the law in which many practitioners solely operate, giving them in-depth knowledge when it comes to the nuances of this area of the law. There are countless local practices, and they may be able to handle a divorce, but they do not specialize in it.	Divorce and family law represents 95% of our work. We're familiar with the latest trends and case law relating to divorce, custody, property division, alimony and child support.	
2. What are your credentials in this field of focus? Make sure whoever you retain to head your divorce team has the knowledge and experience you need to zealously represent you.	Our attorneys are licensed in jurisdictions outside of Massachusetts, they're adjunct faculty members at law schools in the region, and members of five different Bar Associations.	
3. How many cases do your attorneys typically handle at a time? Lots of family lawyers are fairly busy with their caseloads, and don't have time or the ability to focus zealously on all of their clients.	We don't take on more than we can manage. Our divorce teams typically have between 20 and 28 clients at a time. Many divorce lawyers handle two to six times as many cases.	
4. Is your firm known more as a group of litigators or peacemakers? Many lawyers can be antagonistic and encourage a lot of acrimonious fighting.	Attorney Irwin M. Pollack and the entire legal team have a different approach: they encourage parties to work things out. Make no mistake, they understand that there can be a lot of bad feelings in a divorce and our team is prepared to fight in court if it becomes necessary. Whether you go to court or negotiate a deal, we work hard to make sure things work out best for you.	
5. Will you have plenty of time to devote to this case or do you have others coming up that will be a higher priority for you? Many firms delegate much of your work to a paralegal, legal assistant or secretary.	Here you get a team of experts. You deal directly with experts, the decision makers, the professionals who play the key roles in your case. That makes a big difference in the quality of the advice you receive.	
6. What's your communication style? Find someone who is not afraid to be straightforward. Your lawyer should be willing to be honest with you as well as understand divorce laws.	We know that effectively representing our clients sometimes means saying things they don't want to hear. You may not always like what we tell you, but you can count on it.	
7. What efforts will you make to try to settle my case? The vast majority of divorce cases settle. You want a lawyer who is willing to communicate with your spouse and/or your spouse's lawyer to try to settle the case.	We're zealous advocates, and while we know how to be aggressive and assertive, we also know there are times when it is easier to go over, under or around an obstacle. We evaluate each case and choose the best course of action for our client.	
8. What additional expertise/experience does your firm offer that may be useful in my case? (e.g. financial expertise, extensive child custody and support experience?) Many divorce and family law cases require technical or specialized knowledge that is often not directly related to the law itself, but nevertheless critical for advising clients and presenting evidence.	We've established relationships with knowledgeable and respected experts in various fields including tax, financial planning, parenting investigation, private investigation, business valuation, employment benefits valuation and real estate.	
9. What type of clientele have you represented in the past? Each divorce matter is different and as varied and unique as a fingerprint. While attorneys may understand the law, do they understand you?	We have encountered clients from nearly every walk of life, line of work and economic background. Our past and current clients include business owners, entrepreneurs, executives, investors, bankers, restaurateurs...high net-worth individuals; members of the middle and upper-middle class.	
10. How do you deal with child-related issues in divorce? Some of the most difficult issues in divorce relate to children.	The strength of our legal team is working out custody arrangements similar to the one Attorney Pollack has with his own former spouse. Our lawyers focus intensely on the best interest of the child.	