



DID YOU KNOW?

August 2017

Hiring A Lawyer

If you have decided to hire a lawyer, there are a few questions you need to ask. Below is a checklist of questions to ask before you hire a lawyer. Take it with you. It may help you feel more comfortable asking some of the questions.

About the lawyer:

1. How long have you been practicing law? If you are not sure if the lawyer you are hiring is a lawyer qualified to practice in Canada, then you can check with the Law Society of British Columbia. You can call them and enquire to find out if a person who claims and advertises to be a lawyer is qualified and has the necessary credentials to practice in BC. You can also check online, using the Law Society's Lawyer Look-up:
www.lawsociety.bc.ca/apps/lkup/mbrsearch.cfm
2. What is your experience in this area of law?
3. Have you handled any cases like mine? What was the outcome?

About your case:

1. What are the possible outcomes of my case, and what are the chances of success?
2. What are the procedures involved in my case, and a rough time schedule for the case?

3. What complications can arise in my case, and can they result in additional fees?

About legal fees.

Ask your lawyer about legal fees and expenses. These are not the same. A lawyer's fee is the payment you make for the lawyer's time. Expenses (disbursements) are the various costs incurred for your case. These can be filing costs, photocopying, courier charges etc.

Often people are uncomfortable in discussing fees when hiring a lawyer. It is very important to discuss fees with the lawyer right from the start. Lawyers are expected to discuss fees with their clients at the outset as part of their duty of candour.

For More Information

Law Society of British Columbia:
604-669-2533 or
1800-903-5300 (toll-free within BC)
You can also visit their website at:
www.lawsociety.bc.ca

See NSCR's Did You Know Fact Sheet: "**Disputing Lawyer Fees**" if you are concerned about how much you have been charged.

This fact sheet contains legal information, not advice and is accurate as of the above date. For legal advice, please contact a lawyer.