

# Lawyer Evaluation Worksheet

Provided by The Modern Woman's Divorce Guide ~ [www.moddivorce.com](http://www.moddivorce.com)

Use this worksheet to record information about the family lawyers you meet and help you decide which lawyer to hire.

Lawyer's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Law firm name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone numbers: Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Conflict of interest? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ Record of disciplinary action? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Licensed to practice law in your state? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ State bar no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years in practice: Total: \_\_\_\_\_ In my state: \_\_\_\_\_ In family law: \_\_\_\_\_

Certified Family Law Specialist? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ Certified by: \_\_\_\_\_

Percentage of practice dedicated to family law: \_\_\_%

Does the lawyer handle non-family law cases? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ If so, what type and how many? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the lawyer have family law trial experience? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ If so, how many years? \_\_\_

Percentage of lawyer's divorce cases resolved at trial: \_\_\_% In settlement: \_\_\_%

Number of clients lawyer currently represents: \_\_\_

Hourly rates: \$\_\_\_ (Office time) \$\_\_\_ (Court time) \$\_\_\_ (Paralegal time) \$\_\_\_ (Copy costs)

Additional charges (e.g., telephone, faxes, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Retainer fee required: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Refundable: Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Lawyer's estimate of the total cost of my divorce: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Length of time to finalize my divorce: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the lawyer know my husband's lawyer: Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ If so, what is their relationship? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the lawyer familiar with the family court judges in my county? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Is the lawyer familiar with complex issues like those in my case? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Was the lawyer a good listener? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Did the lawyer answer all of my questions easily and clearly? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Did the lawyer explain things to me in a language that I could understand? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Did the lawyer explain the positive and negative issues that I may face in divorce? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Does the lawyer handle custody or will I also have to hire a custody lawyer? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

If I want to handle my own divorce, is the lawyer willing to guide me through the process? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

If I signed a prenuptial or post-nuptial agreement, is the lawyer willing to challenge it? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Has the lawyer ever handled divorces involving prenuptial or post-nuptial agreements? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Has the lawyer ever successfully challenged prenuptial or post-nuptial agreements? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

First impressions of lawyer: \_\_\_\_\_

Will the lawyer be the only lawyer working on my case? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ If not, who else will be working on it?

Associate lawyer's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Conflict of interest? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ Record of disciplinary action? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Licensed to practice law in my state? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Hourly rates: \$\_\_\_ (Office time) \$\_\_\_ (Court time) \$\_\_\_

Number of years in practice: Total: \_\_\_ In my state: \_\_\_ In family law: \_\_\_

Certified Family Law Specialist? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ Certified by: \_\_\_\_\_

Percentage of practice dedicated to family law: \_\_\_%

Does the associate handle non-family law cases? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ If so, what type and how many? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the associate have family law trial experience? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ If so, how many years? \_\_\_

Percentage of associate's divorce cases resolved at trial: \_\_\_% In settlement: \_\_\_%

Number of clients associate currently represents: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the associate know my husband's lawyer? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ If so, what is their relationship? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the associate familiar with the family court judges in my county? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Is the associate familiar with complex issues unique to my case? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Was the associate a good listener? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Did the associate appear confident and at ease discussing my case and the law? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Did the associate explain things to me in a language that I could understand? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Does the associate handle custody or will I also have to hire a custody lawyer? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

First impressions of associate: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Lawyer's Assistants

Did the receptionist handle my telephone calls pleasantly and with confidence? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

If the lawyer wasn't available, did the receptionist know when he or she would be available? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

During the initial consultation, did the receptionist greet me warmly? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Did staff smile while passing me in the waiting area? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Did the receptionist mention other clients' names while in my presence? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Did staff discuss other cases within my earshot? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

What is the ratio of lawyers-to-assistants? \_\_\_ lawyer(s) to \_\_\_ assistants

First impressions of assistants: \_\_\_\_\_

Disclaimer: The contents of this document should not be used as a substitute for competent legal advice from a licensed lawyer, doctor or therapist. Please consult a licensed lawyer, doctor or therapist who is familiar with your case and your state's laws.