

CHILDHOOD & PARENTING

QUESTIONNAIRE: Choosing a Juvenile Defense Attorney

If you are looking for a juvenile defense attorney for yourself or for your child, making the right choice can seem overwhelming. There are many sources, like Internet legal directories, that can lead you to a variety of attorneys from which to choose. Once you've compiled a list, you may want to interview several, by phone or in person, to find just the right one for you or your child. After all, you have a lot at stake. The following questions can help you make an informed decision.

Ask each attorney you are considering the following questions:

What experience do you have representing juveniles?

What experience do you have with the particular charges involved in this case?

How long have you been practicing? _____ years

How much of that time has been devoted to juvenile law? _____ years

Is your practice currently devoted exclusively to juvenile law, or do you work in other areas? If so, what areas?

What outcomes have you achieved for your clients in cases similar to this one?

What are the possible outcomes in this case?

Clean Record _____ Dropped Charges _____ Community Service _____
Restitution _____ Residential Treatment _____ Probation _____ Other _____

What strategy do you recommend in this case?

Will you be doing the work on this case, or will you delegate it to a less experienced attorney or a paralegal or law clerk?

What are your fees?

How much do you think this case will cost?

How will you keep me informed of developments in the case?

How long will it take to resolve this case? _____

Have you ever had your license suspended? If so, please explain.
