

How to choose a law firm

When you're considering a divorce, a child support modification, or any other family law issue, the law firm you choose to represent you is one of the most important decisions you'll make. You want to do enough research to help you make an informed choice, but you also don't want to overthink it to the point that you're delaying getting a resolution. Here are some things to consider.

Online recommendations are helpful, but not the whole story. When it comes to family law, especially for divorce, it's often a personal, painful process. Even those who have terrific experiences, with better outcomes than expected, won't necessarily run to Facebook or Yelp to post glowing recommendations after their divorces are complete. You'll certainly see some reviews about law firms, and they should certainly be part of your research, but they shouldn't be all of your research.

You should definitely talk to family and friends. There's a good chance, given divorce statistics, that you know a few people living in San Antonio who have gone through the divorce process. Because you've earned their trust, they can give you more candid, detailed information about their processes as you might have found otherwise, and you might even learn about specific lawyers and how they worked. Even if you don't get names of lawyers you might want to work with in this process, you should get a better sense of what to screen for and what questions to ask of the person who will ultimately represent you in your case.

Know what's at stake. Certainly, all family lawyers understand that children and assets are the two prime friction points in divorces. But some lawyers might have more experience than others in working with alternative parenting plans, or divorces involving children with special needs, or couples who have small businesses as part of the marital estate, or high-conflict relationships. Each divorce is different, but knowing that your lawyer has experience in issues that are sure to come up in your divorce can give you more peace of mind that the divorce will be settled.

When you're choosing a lawyer to represent you, you want to make sure that you can trust that lawyer, and that you are on the same wavelength. While you're not going to be friends — and you should think of your lawyer as someone handling your divorce business, and not someone to act as your counselor — you want to make sure that you are comfortable around the lawyer, as you're going to spend some time together for however long it takes to complete your divorce.