



What Should I Expect from My Family Law Attorney?

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You should expect a lot. It is usually a very stressful time in your life, and you are paying him or her, so do not feel bad for having high expectations.

You should expect a written Engagement Agreement setting forth the terms of the attorney's representation. It should set forth detail about billing, trust deposits, returned phone messages, etc.

You should expect your attorney to communicate and to communicate effectively with you, opposing counsel and the Court. Telephone calls, emails, and correspondence should be returned (or acknowledged at least) the same day or certainly within 24 hours. The attorney or a paralegal should let you know that an answer is forthcoming if the answer itself cannot be provided within those time limits.

You should expect to receive a copy of each document sent, received or filed with the Court.

You should expect to be kept up-to-date on your case on a routine and an as-needed basis. This is often accomplished by promptly returning calls and emails and sending copies of all documents to the client.

You should expect that all of your questions will be answered and answered respectfully. You should expect an attitude of "The only dumb question is the one you don't ask."

You should expect your attorney to give you his or her best advice. You should expect your attorney to tell you what you need to hear and not what you want to hear. You should expect your attorney to give you the benefit of his or her experience in suggesting a course of action.

You should expect your attorney to expect you to follow his or her advice and even to withdraw from representing you if you choose not to follow that advice. Good attorneys have better things to do with their time than try to help people who will not follow their advice. You have better things to do with your time and money than work with an attorney whose advice you choose not to take. Failure to heed your attorney's advice is usually a prescription for disaster.

You should expect detailed billing statements to be sent on a routine basis. You should expect to be billed in accordance with the terms of your Engagement Agreement. You should expect your Engagement Agreement with your lawyer to be written in plain English.

You should expect your attorney to be willing to discuss his or her billing with you and be willing to explain each bill to your satisfaction.

You should expect to pay the attorney pursuant to your Agreement. Remember, good advice is not cheap and cheap advice isn't good.

Remember to set high expectations for your attorney and yourself, you both deserve it.

For more information on this author and his law practice, click here <http://www.ck-attorneys.com/allen-profile.php>.