

The Vacca Insider



Have You Been Asked to Recommend a Divorce Lawyer? These Are the Questions to Ask Before Making a Referral

Sooner or later, if you have a client who is thinking about divorce, they will ask you if you know a “good” divorce lawyer. You probably know several, but which one should you recommend?

Before you can answer the question most effectively, you need more information about the client’s situation, goals, and expectations. With a few simple questions, you’ll be better able to recommend a divorce attorney who meets the client’s needs.

1. How Much Conflict Do You Anticipate?

This question is probably the most important. Someone divorcing a bully or narcissist may not be able to accomplish anything through negotiation, so they may require a divorce attorney who is used to fighting over every detail in court. On the other hand, if both spouses are willing to communicate and want to resolve the details out of court, then an attorney who works with mediation or collaborative divorce (ideally both) would be a better fit.

2. Where are You in the Process?

A client who is just starting to think about divorce may benefit from an attorney who offers pre-divorce legal guidance. If the client is further along in the process and their soon-to-be-ex has already hired an attorney, it might make sense to find a lawyer with a similar or complementary style. If your client needs an attorney right away, the existing caseload and availability of the attorney will be factors you should consider.

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3. What Financial Issues Will You Need to Address?

If clients have assets that could be challenging to divide, you may want to recommend an attorney with experience handling complex property issues. In particular, situations where one or both spouses operate a business, can require specialized knowledge to get the best results for clients.

4. Do You Have Minor Children?

Child custody, visitation, and support issues will be of paramount importance in the case, so you would want to recommend a divorce lawyer who finds satisfaction in working with these issues.

5. Do You Prefer to Have Access to a Legal Team?

Some law firms take more of a team approach where clients may have the ability to communicate with associate attorneys, paralegals, and assistants who can keep their legal costs down. In other practices, the client may only have access to the law firm owner throughout the case.

The answers to these questions not only allow you to make an informed referral but also give your client a head-start toward thinking about their own priorities and preferences, making the process more efficient for everyone.

The team at Vacca Family Law Group is ready to assist your clients who, despite facing complex financial and child-related issues in their divorce, want to reach an amicable agreement with their spouse. They can contact us at vaccalaw.com or 212-768-1115 and schedule a free consultation to find out how we can help.

If you know someone who needs a highly experienced family law attorney and mediator, have them contact Andrea at avacca@vaccalaw.com or they can schedule a free consultation online at vaccalaw.com/vip.