

Questions you need to ask your lawyer

Written by Clayton Tyler

Wednesday, 13 January 2010 17:40

At the Law Office of F. Clayton Tyler P.A. people walk through my front door every day to put my decades of criminal defense experience to work for them. When considering which cases I choose to accept, I look at a number of important questions. Just as you want to find the right lawyer to handle your case, most attorneys want to make sure that they can make a difference in the cases they take.

The first question I ask is: Am I your right choice to fight your criminal charge?

When you hire a lawyer for a criminal matter, you are putting faith and trust into that attorney. How well your attorney does his or her job can affect your future and your freedom. Criminal defense is very serious business, and if I don't feel like I'm the right fit for your case I will be entirely honest with you and give you the options and knowledge to make the right decision.

I am proud of my office's reputation and record of successful defense, but that doesn't mean that we're the best choice for every client. I offer a free initial consultation so that I can review your case, look at the facts, get a sense of how well we can work together, and then give you an honest appraisal of what my office can do for you. Sometimes that means I tell you how I think I can fight your case, and other times it means that I encourage you to find a professional who might better match your needs.

The next question I ask is: Can I give this person's case the attention it needs?

A criminal case such as a felony violent crime or a large drug charge can require extensive time and effort to fully defend. If I have a large caseload and multiple clients relying on my office for defense, then I have to consider whether adding another case will overextend my office's time and resources.

If I can't invest the time or effort it would take to defend a case, I won't take that case. To take that case might be unfair to clients to whom I have already made a commitment, and it would be unfair to you. When you spend your money on a professional, you should be sure that you are getting his or her best effort.

One of the last questions I ask is: Can I trust this client and do I feel he or she will trust me?

The relationship you build with your lawyer is an important one. Holding back information can potentially damage your case and make a bad situation worse. If I don't feel like I can connect with a client and convince you that I am on your side, then part of my job is to send you to someone you can trust. I work to provide the strongest legal defense that I can, and I need to be confident that we can work together, both financially and professionally.

I stand behind my motto of straight talk and honest answers, and work every day to make sure my clients are getting the representation, counsel, and defense they need.

Respect and trust can be hard to come by in criminal defense, but they can be the difference between a successful and unsuccessful case. If you have been charged with a crime and need to find a lawyer, call my office at (612) 333-7309 or visit my website at www.fctyler.com to find

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out more about my approach to client defense.

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