Elder Law Attorneys



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Finding and Working with an Elder Law Attorney

Areas of Legal Expertise

The field of elder law includes a wide range of areas in which attorneys practice, including:

- Medicaid (Title 19) rules around different situations (i.e. paying for a nursing home, preserving assets)
- Social Security/Disability
- Planning for future incapacity/health care decisions ("advance directives" durable powers of attorney for health and finance)
- Estate planning
- Probate
- Guardianships and conservators
- Trusts

Not all elder law attorneys are specialized in all of these areas in the field. When interviewing potential attorneys, makes sure to ask about their expertise and experience levels. Elder law attorneys should have an awareness of community resources that can be of assistance as well. It is also important to gauge the sensitivity each attorney shows to the challenges older adults face as part of the aging process.

Interview Questions to Ask

When interviewing potential elder law attorneys, you can ask as many questions as you wish in order to make sure you have the right fit with your attorney. Have a list of questions ready to ask the attorney or office staff. Here are some examples of questions:

- Does this attorney specialize in a particular area of legal practice?
- How long have they been in the field?
- How much of their practice is devoted to this area of practice?
- Does this attorney offer free initial consultations, and if so, for how long? If not, what is the fee
 for the first office appointment?
- Do they request a retainer fee? What is the amount?
- What types of documents would the attorney need to see at the first meeting in order to fully discuss my problem with me?

ADRC of Brown County 300 S. Adams St. Green Bay, WI 54

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Communication is Key

You need to trust your attorney will do the best work for you and that your case is handled well. You should be comfortable with how your attorney answers your questions. Your attorney should respond to your concerns with attention and respect.

The First Meeting

After you have selected an attorney, your first appointment will be focused on the issues/questions you have. Explain your concerns thoroughly and clearly, coming prepared with notes. Here are some questions to ask the attorney at the first meeting:

- What course(s) of action can we take to resolve my situation? What are the pros and cons to each?
- How have you handled cases similar to mine in the past?
- Are you a member of the local/state bar association? Are you a part of any special committees related to my situation? Are you a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys?
- What is the estimated cost for my case? How is that calculated? How long will my case take?

Discussing the Cost

You case can include many different costs (i.e. copying, postage, phone calls, court fees, etc.). Attorneys have different ways of billing for these costs (i.e. flat fees, hourly fees at different rates depending on the staff involved, document fees, and out-of-pocket expenses). Some attorneys ask for a retainer, which is money paid before work actually starts on your case, with the amount being a percentage of the estimated cost or the full cost. Retainer funds are usually placed in a trust account the attorney pulls from to pay for the services as they occur. Make sure you understand how your attorney will bill your for your case before you begin.

Get it in Writing

Put your arrangements in writing (either a formal contract or letter), explaining what services the attorney will provide, the fees, and the billing process. An oral agreement with an attorney will hold you responsible for charges for the services provided by the attorney and staff.

Local Elder Law Attorneys

Barstow Elder Law Center, S.C.*

2149 Velp Ave. Suite 205 Green Bay (920) 393-4686 www.elderlawgreenbay.com

Brabazon Law Office, LLC

221 Packerland Dr. Green Bay (920) 494-1106 www.brabazonlawoffice.com

Czachor, Polack & Borchardt Law, L.L.P.

107 N. Broadway Suite II Green Bay (920) 435-7300 | www.cpblawyers.com

Davis Kuelthau Attorneys at Law

318 S. Washington St. Suite 300 Green Bay (920) 435-9378 | www.dkattorneys.com

DeLeers Legal, LLC

2200 Dickinson Rd. Suite 17A De Pere (920) 712-7800 Www.deleerslegal.com

Silver Divorce Wisconsin (no Estate planning effective 6/29/22, will take Medicaid Crisis Planning)

217 N. 4th Ave Sturgeon Bay (920) 888-4243 www.silverdivorcewi.com

Geimer & Orcutt Law Offices*

2333 Riverside Dr. Green Bay (920) 432-4433 www.geimerorcuttlaw.com

Hager, Dewick & Zuengler, S.C.*

200 S. Washington St. Suite 200 Green Bay (920) 430-1900 | <u>www.hdz-law.com</u>

John A Muraski

545 Wingate St. Green Bay (920) 406-8826

Keebler & Associates, LLP*

420 S. Washington St. Green Bay (920) 593-1700 www.keeblerandassociates.com

Krause Financial Services*

1234 Enterprise Dr. De Pere (866) 605-07437 www.krausefinancial.com

Law Office of Christina Kabara, LLC

2149 Velp Ave Suite 507 Green Bay (920) 434-0777

Law Office of Peter C Brehm

2150 Memorial Dr Suite 101 Green Bay (920) 544-0152

Law Office of Troy Dalebroux, LLC*

151 Commerce Dr. Luxemburg (920) 845-2365

Lewis & Van Sickle, LLC

2149 Velp Ave Suite 206 Green Bay (920) 434-9977 www.lewisvansickle.com

Liebmann & Van Straten Legal Group, LLC*

225 S. Monroe Ave. Suite 103 Green Bay (920) 784-2900 www.lvslegal.com

Martinson Law Offices

529 S. Jefferson St Suite 101 Green Bay (920) 432-4303 www.martinsonlawoffices.com

Olson, Kulkoski, Galloway & Vesely, S.C.

416 S. Monroe Ave. Green Bay (920) 437-5405 | <u>www.okgv.com</u>

Nell & Associates

380 Main Ave. De Pere (920) 339-6377

One Law Group *

2181 S. Oneida St. Green Bay (920) 336-5766 | www.onelawgroupsc.com

Parins Law Firm, S.C.

416 S. Monroe Ave. Green Bay (920) 432-3116 | www.parinslawfirm.com

Peterson, Berk, & Cross S.C.

300 N Broadway Green Bay (920) 432-3883 | <u>www.pbclaw.com</u>

Roels, Keidatz, Fronsee & Danen LLC

515 George St. De Pere (920) 336-4242 www.deperelaw.com

Umentum & Kimps, S.C.

414 S. Jefferson St. Green Bay (920) 593-2646 | <u>www.umentumlaw.com</u>

Note: These attorneys are listed in the Yellow Pages as "Attorneys - Elder Law."

* Indicates the attorney is a certified member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys.

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