

# TIPS FOR SELECTING A QUALIFIED TRAUMA LAWYER

Selecting an experienced and qualified trauma lawyer is one of the most important decisions you need to make following a motor vehicle collision, slip and fall or another incident. The tips below will help you identify leading trauma lawyers in Ontario best suited to help you and your family.

## Qualification, Competence and Credentials Matter.

### THE LAWYER

Hire a lawyer with objective credentials validating their status as a leader in personal injury law.

#### Ask the lawyer\*:

**Are you Certified by the Law Society of Ontario as a Specialist in Civil Litigation?**

The Certified Specialist designation is awarded by the Law Society of Ontario to select lawyers who have maintained exemplary standards of professionalism in his or her field of law.

**Are you recognized as an expert in personal injury law?**

An experienced personal injury lawyer should be listed in the following peer-reviewed publications:

- Lexpert
- Best Lawyers in Canada
- Martindale-Hubbell  
(the highest rating is AV Preeminent)

### THE LAW FIRM

Hire a lawyer that works at an established law firm known for its expertise in personal injury law.

#### Ask the lawyer\*:

**How long has the law firm been in business?**

A well-established law firm with a history of success is more likely to have the resources and access to highly regarded health care professionals and other experts needed to help you with your case.

**Is the law firm a leader in Plaintiff's personal injury law?**

You should talk to more than one law firm. Ask others that work with people with brain injury for suggestions to determine if the law firm is widely regarded or recognized as a leader in personal injury law.

### THE PITFALLS

Consider the following when selecting a lawyer and law firm to assist you and your family.

#### Ask the lawyer\*:

**Have you handled similar cases and successfully taken cases to trial?**

A lawyer and law firm with a reputation and history of taking cases to trial is better equipped to favourably resolve your case. Ask to speak to former clients with similar cases.

**Will you remain involved with my case?**

Make sure that the lawyer you are hiring will be the one involved in your case and will be accessible to your questions.

### THE COST

People often worry about the cost of hiring a lawyer. However, qualified trauma lawyers typically:

- Offer a free no obligation consult;
- Will meet you at the hospital and/or at your home;
- Will only get paid if and when the case is successfully resolved; and,
- Will charge you an industry standard fee that should not exceed one-third of the damages recovered (plus HST on fees and plus reimbursement for disbursements).