

# Know Your Legal Rights

*“Know Your Legal Rights”  
is a free legal education series  
by [Dixon Law Office](#).*

*To request more information,  
call 888-354-9880 or email  
[contact@dixonlawoffice.com](mailto:contact@dixonlawoffice.com).*

## 9 Things You Must Know Before Hiring a Personal Injury Attorney

**W**hen you or a loved one is hurt, it is stressful. There are hospitals, doctors, and medications to deal with. Bills come from everywhere. It is even more stressful when all this is someone else's fault. Many times you want to talk to someone – maybe even a lawyer – who can answer your questions. Before you call a lawyer, here are 9 things you must know.

## **1. Initial Consultations Are Usually Free**

Many people don't call a lawyer because they believe it will cost too much. A good lawyer will be willing to discuss the basic facts of your case and tell you whether he believes you have a case, for free.

## **2. Experience Matters**

Most good lawyers limit their practice to one or two kinds of law. If you are hiring a lawyer to represent you in a personal injury case, make sure that lawyer has experience in personal injury cases.

## **3. Beware of Ambulance Chasers**

Ambulance chasing is illegal in most states for good reason. If you were in an accident and get a call, letter or mailing from a lawyer right afterward, beware. Check with friends and family about a lawyer before hiring one.

## **4. You Don't Have to File a Lawsuit**

While most cases settle without going to trial, some cases do not even need a lawsuit to be settled. A lawyer can sometimes get the important information to the insurance company for the defendant and settle the case without the need to file a lawsuit. This is often faster and less expensive.

## **5. Know the Fee**

If you hire a lawyer, he has to be paid for his time. Almost all personal injury lawyers work on a "contingency fee." That means the lawyer gets no fee for his work until you get paid. This kind of a fee allows you to hire a great lawyer without having to pay that lawyer upfront. Be sure you understand the fee before you hire a lawyer.

## **6. Expenses Are Not Included**

While the fee is often stated as a percentage of your settlement, that fee only pays for the lawyer's time. When a lawyer has to pay someone else for work on your case, he pays what are called "expenses." Most lawyers pay the expenses for you and then bill you for the expenses at the end of the case. Ask about expenses before you sign the contract.

## **7. You May Have To Pay Back Insurance Companies**

The number one misunderstanding clients have in personal injury cases is insurance. If you have health insurance, you may have to pay them back for bills the health insurance company paid. Good lawyers will work with you and your insurance companies to make sure you get the most possible from your settlement.

## 8. Cases Take Time

Every case takes a lot of time to complete. When you hire a lawyer, ask how long he thinks the case will take. Good lawyers will be able to give you a realistic estimate. Beware of promises for quick settlements or fast cash. They are almost always untrue.

## 9. There Are No Guarantees

If a lawyer guarantees you a result, don't walk away, run! A good lawyer will give you an honest opinion of what he thinks of your case.

If you or a loved one has been injured, you can call an experienced lawyer and they should be willing to talk and help you. These 9 things will help you know the right questions to ask so you can get the best lawyer for your case.

## ***"Know Your Legal Rights" Series***

This educational series by Dixon Law Office provides clients and friends with information on a number of important legal topics.

The series includes:

- 4 Questions You Must Ask if You Fall
- 5 Action Steps After a Car Accident (C-R-A-S-H)
- 9 Things to Know Before Hiring a Personal Injury Attorney
- How to Get Your Medical Records
- Property Damage: 4 Simple Steps for Getting Top Dollar

## **DIXON LAW OFFICE**

**Injury Attorneys**

*Making it right.*

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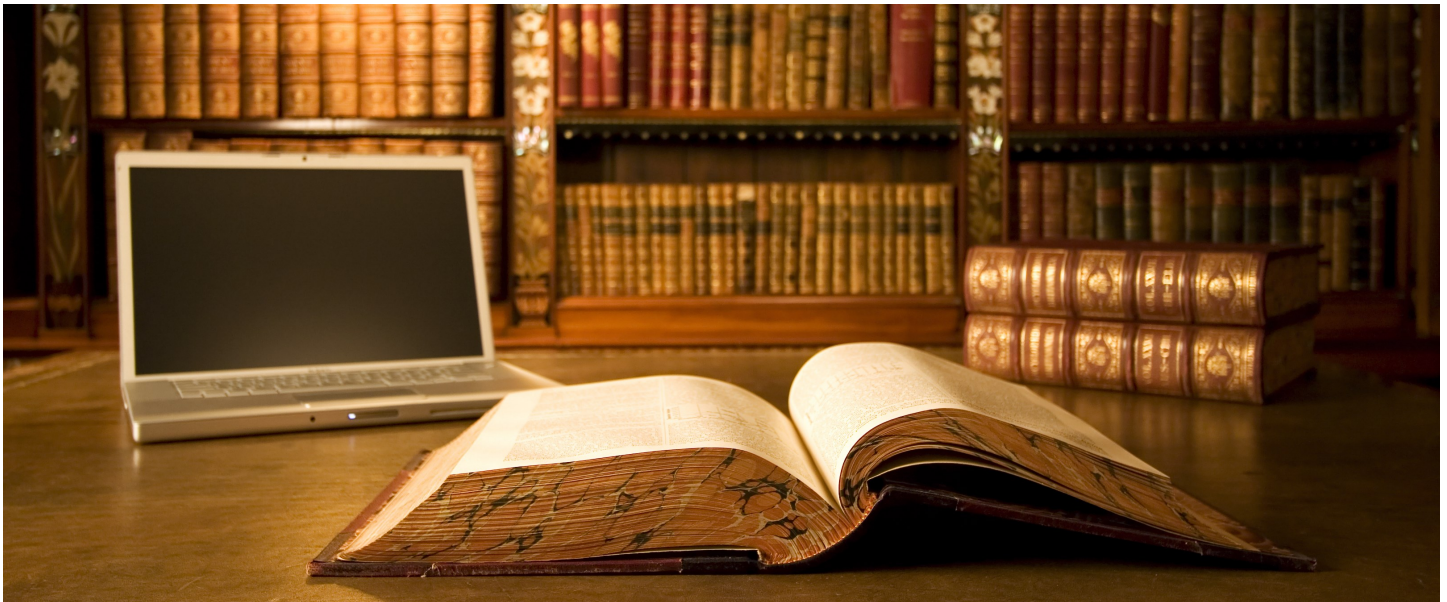
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## About Dixon Law Office

Dixon Law Office represents victims of personal injury accidents. Our attorneys have more than 20 years of experience helping victims after serious and catastrophic injuries, including car and motorcycle accidents, work injuries, and many others. Founded on Christian principles of honesty, fairness and justice, we can help you and your family get the compensation you deserve. Call us today at 888-354-9880 or visit [www.AttorneysMakingItRight.com](http://www.AttorneysMakingItRight.com).

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