

Questions to Ask During a Free Consultation With a Florida Injury Lawyer

Learn more about how a Palm Beach Gardens attorney can help

A [free consultation](#) with a personal injury attorney is one of the few moments in the legal process that's entirely on your terms. It costs you nothing, commits you to nothing, and gives you access to a legal assessment that can shape the outcome of your entire case. Most people walk into that meeting prepared to answer the attorney's questions. Far fewer come prepared to ask their own.

That gap matters. The attorney's questions gather facts about your [car accident](#). Your questions reveal whether this attorney is the right person to fight for you. Walking into a consultation without a clear set of questions is like interviewing a surgeon without asking about their outcomes. You might still end up with the right person. But you might not.

[The Law Offices of Casey D. Shomo, P.A.](#) has been conducting free consultations with Palm Beach Gardens injury victims for over three decades. The clients who get the most from those meetings are the ones who come ready to evaluate the attorney as carefully as the attorney is evaluating their case.

What to bring before you ask anything

The quality of a consultation depends partly on what information you bring to the meeting. An attorney can give you a more specific and honest assessment when they're working with real facts rather than a general description of events.

Gather as much of the following as possible before your appointment:

- The police report or crash report from the crash scene
- Medical records and billing received so far, including emergency records, imaging results, and specialist notes
- Photographs of the crash scene, vehicle damage, and your visible injuries
- Your insurance policy documentation and any written communication from any insurance carrier
- Documentation of missed work, such as pay stubs or a statement from your employer
- Contact information for any witnesses to the accident
- A written timeline of events from the crash through your current treatment status

Even if you don't have everything, bring what you have. The goal is to give both sides enough information to make a well-informed decision.

“What has your track record been with cases like mine?”

This question reveals more than almost any other. Florida [personal injury law](#) covers a wide range of claims, and the legal strategy, evidentiary requirements, and insurance dynamics differ significantly between case types. A car accident involving a commercial vehicle carries different liability considerations than a [pedestrian crash](#), and a traumatic brain injury claim requires different documentation than a soft tissue injury.

An attorney who has genuinely handled your type of case can speak specifically about common obstacles, the evidence that matters most, and realistic outcome ranges. One who hasn't may offer reassurance without substance.

Ask whether they've taken cases like yours to trial, not just settled them. The credible willingness to litigate is often what moves an insurance carrier off a low offer during negotiations. An attorney who never goes to trial is negotiating from a weakened position, even when the facts are strongly on the client's side.

“What is my case realistically worth?”

Most people are reluctant to ask this question directly. It's also one of the most important ones to ask. An honest attorney won't give you a specific dollar figure in the first twenty minutes because the information required to calculate full case value – a complete medical record, confirmed prognosis, documented income losses, and a clear picture of future needs – simply doesn't exist in the early weeks after a personal injury accident.

What a credible attorney can tell you is which categories of damages apply to your situation, what factors will most affect the value range, and whether your injuries appear likely to meet Florida's serious injury threshold under [Statute 627.737](#). That threshold determines whether you can pursue the at-fault driver for [pain and suffering](#) beyond your PIP coverage, and it makes a substantial difference in total case value for anyone with serious injuries.

Be watchful for two things. An attorney who names an inflated specific figure within the first few minutes without reviewing any medical documentation is telling you what you want to hear. An attorney who won't discuss case value at all isn't being transparent.

“Who will actually handle my case day to day?”

At many larger personal injury firms, the attorney you meet with during a consultation isn't the person who works your case. Files may be assigned to associates or managed primarily by paralegals, with the named partner involved only at key milestones or when the case goes to trial. That model isn't inherently wrong, but you deserve to know it before you sign a fee agreement.

Ask these questions directly:

- Will you personally handle my case, or will it be assigned to another attorney or member of your staff?
- Who is my primary contact for questions and updates throughout the process?
- How will I be kept informed as my case moves forward, and how often?

The difference between an attorney who personally manages your file and one who delegates it to someone you've never met affects communication, strategic consistency, and results. At The Law Offices of Casey D. Shomo, P.A., Mr. Shomo personally oversees every case from the initial consultation through resolution. His clients always know exactly who is handling their case.

“How does your fee structure work?”

Most Florida personal injury attorneys work on contingency, meaning no upfront fees and no payment unless they recover compensation for you. But the details within a contingency arrangement vary, and those details can meaningfully affect how much you keep.

Here are the fee questions worth asking before you sign anything:

- What is your contingency fee percentage if the case settles before trial?
- Does that percentage increase if the case proceeds to litigation or trial?
- Are case costs such as filing fees, deposition costs, and consultant fees advanced by your firm?
- Are those costs deducted before or after the contingency fee percentage is applied?

That last question matters more than it may seem. Whether litigation costs are deducted before or after the fee percentage is calculated can change your net recovery by thousands of dollars on a significant case. Florida personal injury contingency fees typically range from 33% to 40%, with the higher rate applying when litigation is required. Understanding that structure before you commit prevents surprises later.

Always ask for a written fee agreement before signing and read it fully.

“How long will this take and what happens next?”

Injured people have their lives put on hold. Bills are accumulating, [income has stopped](#), and uncertainty carries its own daily weight. Asking about timeline isn't impatience. It's responsible planning, and a good attorney will respect the question.

An honest attorney will explain that the process begins with your medical treatment and that no serious demand is submitted until you've reached maximum medical improvement, the point at

which your condition has stabilized and your long-term needs can be accurately projected. From MMI, preparing a demand and negotiating with the carrier takes additional months.

Minor injury cases typically resolve in three to six months. Cases involving moderate injuries often take six to eighteen months. Severe injuries or disputed liability can extend the timeline considerably beyond a year.

Ask the attorney what comes immediately after the consultation so you leave the meeting with a clear next step, whether that's signing a fee agreement, gathering additional medical records, or simply continuing your current treatment plan.

“What are the weaknesses in my case?”

This question separates an attorney who will genuinely fight for you from one who tells you what you want to hear. Every case has vulnerabilities such as:

- a gap in medical treatment
- prior injury to the same body part
- a question about comparative fault under Florida's modified comparative negligence rules
- a challenge meeting the serious injury threshold

These factors don't necessarily destroy a claim, but an experienced attorney should identify them honestly and explain their strategy for addressing each one. An attorney who can answer this question directly has done real thinking about your situation. One who deflects with generalities hasn't.

What you're evaluating in a consultation isn't only whether the attorney can build a strong case. You're evaluating whether they'll communicate honestly when the picture is complicated, stay accessible when the process gets difficult, and fight without hesitation when the insurance carrier pushes back.

Speak with an experienced Palm Beach Gardens injury lawyer

When you're ready for that conversation, [contact us](#) to book your free consultation. There are no fees or obligations. There's no pressure to make any decision before you're ready. Prompt action matters in personal injury cases. Bring your questions, and you'll get honest answers. If we decide to take your case, there are no upfront or hidden fees; we work on a contingency fee basis and only get paid if we successfully recover compensation for you.