

WHAT ARE YOUR LAWYER'S RESPONSIBILITIES?

Ask your lawyer to tell you the various steps involved in handling your case. You may wish to ask the lawyer to send you copies of any letters or documents prepared for your case. You also may want to know about how long your case will take and how often, and when, the lawyer will report to you. You are entitled to a lawyer who:

- Will represent your interests diligently and ethically in and out of court. (Every lawyer is bound by the Code of Ethics. These rules are available for review at www.anguillabar.com on the Internet).
- Will be capable of handling your case.
- Will be honest about your legal problem, your prospects for success, the time it will take, the expenses involved, and the advisability of accepting any settlement offer.
- Will charge you a reasonable fee and tell you in advance the basis of the fee.
- Will keep statements and information confidential, which you reveal in the course of your relationship.
- Will show you courtesy and respect and will respect your time by being on time for appointments.
- Will exercise independent judgment on your behalf, free from compromising influences and conflicts of interest.
- Will discuss courses of action, alternatives or consequences, and give you the opportunity to make the ultimate decisions on the legitimate objectives to be pursued in your case, including whether or not to settle your case.
- Will inform you, if applicable, who else will be working on the case and how that time will be billed.

WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOUR LAWYER?

If you believe your lawyer has acted improperly, you may contact the Anguilla Bar Association to find out how to make a complaint to the Disciplinary Tribunal. The address of the ABA shown below. Its website is www.anguillabar.com

WHAT IS THE ANGUILLA BAR ASSOCIATION?

The Anguilla Bar Association, which began as a voluntary association in 1987, was continued as a body corporate on 27th April 2016 under the Legal Profession Act, 2016. The Association aims to uphold the rule of law and the cause of justice and protect the interest of the legal profession as well as that of the public.

The legal profession comprises barristers and solicitors. Each legal practitioner is automatically a member of the Anguilla Bar Association so long as he/she holds a valid Practising Certificate. A Legal Practitioner who does not hold a Practising Certificate is a Non-Practising Member.

ANGUILLA BAR ASSOCIATION

First Floor,
Hanna hWaver House
Caribbean Commercial Centre
The Valley, Anguilla, BWI
Phone: 264-497-2227 (264-497-abar)
Email: info@anguillabar.com
Web: www.anguillabar.com



Your Guide to Hiring a Lawyer

HOW DO YOU FIND A LAWYER?

Finding the right lawyer for you and your case is an important and personal decision. People looking for a lawyer often ask family members, friends, co-workers, or others for recommendations. Additionally, business people or professionals such as bankers, ministers, doctors, social workers, and teachers might be able to provide a lawyer's name. You may want to use the Internet to search local attorneys or check the local telephone directory under "Attorney" or "Lawyer."

The Anguilla Bar Association provides a list of Attorneys who hold Practising Certificates and are eligible to practise law in Anguilla. Visit www.anguillabar.com or call 264-497-2069 for more information.

WHO CAN PRACTISE LAW?

Only a person whose name is included on Roll of Barristers and Solicitors in Anguilla (and hold a practising certificate) can do so. To be admitted, a person must graduate from a recognized university, obtain a certificate of legal education from the General Legal Council, or be a member of the English, Northern Ireland or Scottish Bars; and submit to an examination of personal character and fitness to practice law.

In Anguilla, anyone whose name is not on the Roll or who does not hold a practicing certificate commits a crime if he/she practices as a lawyer. Individuals, websites, and businesses that offer to represent clients or draft legal documents on their behalf without being duly admitted to practice law and holding a practising certificate is committing a criminal offence.

In some countries, notary publics may undertake some types of legal work, but that is not the case in Anguilla. Notary publics may not practise law.

WHEN DO YOU NEED A LAWYER?

If you are being sued or accused of a crime, you should seek the help of a lawyer. However, legal assistance is often needed in other situations that have nothing to do with crime or a court action. For example, you may need a lawyer:

- when you make or revise a will;
- when you buy or sell real estate;
- when you enter into any contract;
- when you are involved in an accident; or
- whenever your rights are threatened or jeopardized.



WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A CLIENT?

Upon hiring a lawyer, the lawyer will expect you to:

- Cooperate fully. Inform him or her about all the facts of your case as accurately and honestly as you can, and report any new developments right away.
- Reveal all the information, even if it may not be in your favour. Remember, this information must be kept in confidence by your lawyer. Be organized. Gather all the necessary information and documents that you can obtain before meeting with your lawyer.
- Understand that your lawyer has many other clients and they are equally deserving of the lawyer's time and efforts.
- Understand that no lawyer can guarantee the results you may want in a contested case.
- Be patient and understand that most legal matters are rarely "open and shut" cases. They require time and research.
- Pay the lawyer's fee promptly. If any fee or billings are in question, you should immediately inform the lawyer and discuss the problem.
- Listen to your lawyer, who has been trained to help you with your legal problem.
- Ask questions if you don't understand something the lawyer has told you or that has happened in your case.