

# What to Consider Before Hiring an Estate Planning Attorney

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An estate planning attorney should be someone you trust who can guide you through decisions on your estate that could potentially impact your family. When you do hire an estate planning attorney, here are some questions to ask:

- **Get an idea about the costs of their services up front:** Do you bill a flat fee or an hourly rate? Do you charge an annual fee?
- **Determine if the attorney can advise on what's best for you:** Can you explain the benefits of a will and revocable trust vs. a will and beneficiary designations? Can you tell me which one is better for my situation?
- **What services will the attorney provide:** Will you assist in funding a revocable trust, and if so, how much will you charge for this service?

Get a recommendation from a friend or relative who has an estate planning attorney. Ask your financial advisor or accountant for assistance in finding an estate planning attorney. Both the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis and the Missouri Bar have resources for helping people find an attorney.

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