

SPECIAL REPORT ON ATTORNEY WEBSITES:

WATCH FOR THESE TOP 10 RED FLAGS

BEFORE HIRING A PERSONAL INJURY LAWYER



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INTRODUCTION

Lawyer websites advertising for accident and injury cases are booming. There are so many personal injury attorney websites out there that it probably makes your head spin.

How do you possibly choose a personal injury lawyer with so many attorney websites out there?

Well, there is one way you can significantly shorten your list of personal injury lawyers to choose from.

All you have to do is look out for various **RED FLAGS** on the personal injury lawyer websites.

In our opinion, if a lawyer website has one or more **RED FLAGS**, you should strongly consider crossing that lawyer off of your list.

This is very easy to do, as all you have to do is look at the websites themselves, and they will provide you with this information.

So, how do you know what these **RED FLAGS** are? Keep reading to find out.

If you have questions after reading this Special Report, please contact us and one of our Houston Personal Injury Lawyers will help you.



RED FLAG #1 -- THE WEBSITE DOES NOT HAVE ANY TESTIMONIALS FROM PRIOR CLIENTS.

Lawyers represent clients. If a lawyer does a good job for a client, the client will be satisfied and will have good things to say about the lawyer. Obviously, it is a good sign if a lawyer's prior clients have positive things to say about the lawyer's work on their cases.

In fact, isn't it more important to hear what a lawyer's prior clients have to say about him rather than what he says about himself?

Some websites list "testimonials" from prior clients – many do not. Why would a lawyer not list his prior client's testimonials? Don't you want to hear what his prior clients have to say about him and the work he did on their cases?

If a lawyer's website does not contain any client testimonials, you should strongly consider moving on to a website that does contain this critical information.



RED FLAG #2 -- THE WEBSITE DOES NOT HAVE ANY VIDEOS OF THE LAWYER SPEAKING.

Your lawyer represents you in front of other people, often in Court. These are important people. The Judge. The company attorneys. The mediator. And when your attorney is in front of these important people, she is going to have to speak to them. And if your case goes to trial, your lawyer will spend the entire case speaking to the people who are on your jury and who will decide your case.

Don't you want to know what your lawyer looks like? Don't you want to know how your lawyer sounds when he or she is speaking? Does your attorney convey courtesy, professionalism, and intelligence when speaking? Don't you want an attorney who speaks in this manner?

It's cheap and easy to put video on a website. Why would a lawyer choose not to put video on their website?

You don't want to find out the answer to this question after you have already hired the lawyer. At that point, it may be too late to do anything about it.



RED FLAG #3 -- IT IS DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO GET THE LAWYER ON THE PHONE TO SPEAK WITH THEM.

You have called the phone number on the website, and asked to speak with an attorney. However, you find that days go by, and you still have not spoken with the lawyer.

If the attorney won't talk to you when you are trying to hire him, how do you think he is going to act once you become his client? Indeed, the way a lawyer acts when you are evaluating him is a big clue as to how he will probably act if you hire him.

A lawyer cannot properly represent you in an injury case if it is difficult for you to speak to him.

If you find it difficult to talk to the lawyer you see on the website, cross that lawyer off of your list and interview attorneys who will actually speak with you.

You will be glad you did.



RED FLAG #4 -- YOU SPEAK WITH THE ATTORNEY, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE THEY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE LAW THAT'S ON THEIR WEBSITE.

So you have found a lawyer website that looks very professional, and has a lot of useful information. Maybe it ranks high on Google and the other internet search engines. You call, and talk to the lawyer. But after a few minutes, you find yourself wondering if you called the wrong lawyer?

Because this lawyer has no idea about anything that's on her website!

This is fairly common.

If this happens to you, politely end the phone call and move on until you find lawyers whose knowledge matches their website.



**RED FLAG #5 -- THE WEBSITE HAS A
“DISCLAIMER” THAT SAYS YOUR CASE “MAY
BE REFERRED.”**

You may be wondering what “referred” means. This means the lawyer will actually send your case to a different lawyer for handling.

That’s right. The lawyer you hired will not be handling your case!

Who will handle your case? Some other lawyer you don’t know and have never met.

Why would the lawyer have to refer your case out? If the website says cases may be “referred,” it’s a good idea to look elsewhere.

In fact, it’s always a good idea to directly ask your potential lawyer: “Will you personally handle my case, or are you going to refer it to someone else?”

If the lawyer does not unequivocally agree 100% to personally handle your case from start to finish, keep looking until you find lawyers who tell you they will actually handle your case.



RED FLAG #6 -- THE WEBSITE SAYS IT IS GIVING “LEGAL ADVICE.”

This is a HUGE red flag. Attorneys in Texas, as in all States, are not allowed to give “legal advice” to anyone who is not their client. It’s against the rules of professional responsibility that apply to lawyers.

For this very reason, many lawyer websites have a disclaimer that says nothing on the website should be considered “legal advice.”

If a lawyer website claims to be giving you, and the general public, “legal advice,” then that lawyer is breaking the rules that apply to lawyers in Texas.

Is that the kind of attorney you want to hire?

When you see a lawyer website giving “legal advice,” scratch that lawyer off your list and interview lawyers who are not breaking the rules of professional responsibility.



RED FLAG #7 -- THE WEBSITE DOES NOT INDICATE WHETHER THE ATTORNEY IS “BOARD CERTIFIED.”

Lawyers in Texas may apply to become “Board Certified” in various areas of the law.

One such area is called “Personal Injury Trial Law.”

Individuals appointed by the Texas Supreme Court decide which lawyers are Board Certified.

Lawyers who are Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law have: (1) demonstrated that they are substantially involved and have a special competence in personal injury law, (2) provided positive references from other injury lawyers and judges, and (3) passed a comprehensive written examination.

If an attorney website does not indicate the attorney is Board Certified, then the lawyer is likely NOT Board Certified. If a lawyer has earned this prestigious certification, wouldn't they put that on their website?

Would you rather hire a lawyer who is Board Certified? If so, then stick with lawyers whose websites indicated they are Board Certified.



RED FLAG #8 -- THE WEBSITE DOES NOT LIST THE LAWYER'S RESULTS IN PRIOR CASES.

Results matter. Don't you want to know how your attorney has done for his clients before you?

If your lawyer has done a good job for his clients in the past, don't you think he would publish that on his website?

If a lawyer's website does not list any prior results, that may be because (1) the attorney has not achieved any results, or (2) the attorney is not proud of his results.

In either case, you may want to scratch this lawyer off of your list and talk to attorneys who have a documented record of their prior results.



RED FLAG #9 -- THE WEBSITE MAKES OBVIOUSLY OUTRAGEOUS CLAIMS ABOUT THE LAWYER'S SERVICES.

Does the lawyer's website claim the lawyer is the "best" or the "top" lawyer in her location? Does it claim the lawyer is "#1"?

Be very careful when considering calling a lawyer whose website makes these types of claims. There is no committee, State Bar agency, or any other entity that ranks lawyers in this fashion – at least not in Texas.

Ask yourself this: if a lawyer claims they are #1 or the best, what exactly are they basing that on? Where is the list they are using? Who has ranked them #1?

If you ask them this question and if they answer you, they will have to admit that there is no list, and there is no ranking. No, they just decided, by themselves, with no reference to any outside source, that they are the best lawyer in town.

If a lawyer is willing to make an outrageous claim like this, you will probably be better served looking elsewhere.



RED FLAG #10 – THE WEBSITE BOASTS THE LAWYER HAS COLLECTIVELY OBTAINED A LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY WITHOUT PROVIDING DOCUMENTATION BACKING UP THE CLAIM.

Does the website claim the lawyer has “collected over \$100 million” for his clients? \$200 million? A billion? If so, does the website provide documentation proving this claim?

Be very careful when contacting a lawyer whose website makes this claim without any backup documents. In fact, before interviewing the lawyer, you should request he send you paperwork backing up his claim.

Without backup, it’s highly likely the lawyer simply picked the number out of thin air.

If a lawyer is willing to throw out a make believe big number just to try to get your case, is that the lawyer you want to hire?