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Use of the ABA Lawyer Referral logo indicates that this lawyer referral program has been reviewed by the ABA and meets the specific public service standards established by the ABA. ABA approved lawyer referral programs:

Agree to establish and maintain objective experience criteria for their panel attorneys,

Provide a mechanism for client feedback and resolving client complaints

Do not limit the number of attorneys who may join the Lawyer Referral Service, provided that they meet the objective requirements for panel membership,

Require and verify that all panel attorneys carry legal malpractice insurance.

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## Lawyer Referral Service

# Eight Reasons To Call An Attorney If You Even *Think* You Have A Legal Issue!

By  
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and  
LRS Director Penny Hilton

# What if...

*You got rear-ended and the insurance company sent a check for not nearly enough to repair the car.*

*Your father died leaving an environmental nightmare at his metal plating business, and you are his heir.*

*Your sister wants you to tap your 401(k) and lend her the money for her new restaurant, Bunny's Bistro.*

You ask yourself, "**Should I talk to a lawyer about this?**" You're afraid of what you might hear, and you're worried about the cost. But, talking to a lawyer sooner, rather than later, could actually help you save money, minimize stress, and limit the time you spend dealing with a potential legal issue.

- 1. Finding the right kind of lawyer can take time.** The first lawyer you visit may not practice the kind of law you need. You may need to visit several before you even learn whether you need to hire an attorney.
- 2. Some people you click with, and some you don't.** Find a lawyer who is qualified and with whom you are comfortable. It may not be the first one.
- 3. There are serious deadlines.** The statute of limitations is only one. Insurance policies and

contracts have deadlines. Missing a deadline could mean the difference between winning a case and losing big.

- 4. Memories fade and witnesses die.** Some people put off talking to a lawyer for years. In that time important evidence may get lost, witnesses may pass away, and memories will fade.
- 5. Attorneys need time to handle a case.** Some cases are simple. Many are not. Sometimes attorneys have to refuse a case simply because the client rushed in at the last minute or they are just too busy to handle the case. Thinking and planning ahead will help you in the long run.
- 6. You may need time to evaluate your finances.** Finding the right lawyer is one thing; paying him is something else. Some people have resources they can tap right away, but most don't. Think about how you would pay for legal services before you need them.
- 7. Give yourself time to think.** After consulting an attorney you may be faced with big decisions. Attorneys give advice, but the decisions are yours alone. Take time to think about the right decision for you. Talk with family or friends whose opinions you value.
- 8. Getting into court is not like scheduling an oil change.** The courts are extremely busy. If your case involves going to court, it could be many months or even years until trial. The sooner you address a legal issue, the sooner it can become a non-issue.

**Time is important.**

**Don't wait to obtain legal advice.**

**Call LRS today at 1-800-860-1460.**