

THE ALIGHT LEGAL NEEDS MATCHING PROGRAM

TIPS FOR TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS CONTACTING & WORKING WITH ATTORNEYS

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR ATTORNEY DURING INITIAL CALL

- Have you handled cases dealing with similar issues before?
- How will we stay in touch if we decide to work together?
- What is the best way to reach you (phone or email)?
- Is there someone else in your office I can speak to if you are unavailable or out of the office?
- Do you anticipate that there will be any fees or costs I will have to cover in regards to this matter?
- What are our next steps?

YOUR RIGHTS

When you work with an attorney, your attorney is responsible for:

- Keeping you informed about what is happening with your case or legal matter, clearly answering any questions you have, and responding to your emails and calls within a reasonable time.
- Keeping information about your legal matter secret and asking your permission before sharing your information with anyone else.
- Asking about your expectations and desired outcome for the legal matter, and representing only your interests.

If you do not feel like the attorney is a good fit, please reach out to the person who posted your request for legal assistance - the Intake Advocate or your service provider.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Your attorney will be better able to represent you if you:

- Share any relevant information and documents.
- Be honest if you do not know or do not remember certain information.
- Ask questions if you do not understand something, and raise any concerns or disagreements you may have with the attorney's approach.
- Let the attorney know if you need a break during a difficult or triggering conversation, and if there is anything they can do to help (e.g. "Can we switch to a different topic for awhile, and then return to this issue?" or "Can I take a few minutes and step outside?"). If you are unsure why the attorney needs particular information or details, you can ask the attorney to explain why they need it.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WORKING WITH AN ATTORNEY AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM

- "[How to Choose and Use A Lawyer](#)" from the Colorado Bar Association: An overview of how to choose an attorney, what to expect when you hire an attorney, what fees to expect, changing attorneys or filing a complaint against an attorney, and alternatives to hiring an attorney.
- "[What is the Difference Between the Criminal and Civil Legal Systems?](#)" from LINC (Legal Information Network of Colorado): An overview of the criminal and civil legal systems and what types of issues are dealt with in both.
- "[Frequently Used Terms](#)" from LINC: Defines an extensive list of terms you may hear when engaging with the legal system.