

YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. NOW WHAT?

WHO SHOULD YOU CALL?

Call Couzens Lansky whenever you are sued or litigation is likely. You may not realize that Couzens Lansky is a full service law firm. We have lawyers who can address nearly every legal need you may encounter. Couzens Lansky has a complete array of estate and tax planning attorneys, as well as corporate, banking, tax, real estate, intellectual property, estate administration, commercial litigation, personal injury and divorce lawyers. We also maintain relationships with trusted attorneys outside the firm to address issues outside our areas of expertise. Once you call and set up an appointment, here is what to expect.

BE PREPARED

We understand that our clients are sensitive to fees. Attorneys bill by the hour. Litigators want to focus on salient issues. By preparing thoroughly before your first meeting with us, you can help us work efficiently.



A. Be honest and bring everything to the table.

Lay all your cards on the table. Rule number one is to be honest and truthful. Conversations with your lawyers are confidential and legally protected, so don't hold back. When your lawyer says: "Tell me everything", the lawyer means it.

B. What your lawyer needs to hear from you.

Tell your story chronologically, completing every thought before moving on to the next. Your lawyer needs to understand the events or situation as accurately as possible. Jumping forward and back in time or going off on tangents is confusing, and may lead to an important detail being overlooked. Be specific. Avoid using legal terminology unless you are confident the term is correct (for example, don't call something a "contract" or a "deed" unless you're certain it legally was.)

C. Communicate effectively: It saves you both time and money.

It's critical to come prepared. After all, you're likely paying for the lawyer's time, so it's important to make the most of it. Your lawyer will understand this too. If you've been sued, subpoenaed, searched or arrested, you've almost certainly received some papers. What court is this in? Is it criminal or civil (alternatively these mean you are being charged with a crime by the government or sued by someone for money)? Does it say "Circuit Court", "United States District Court" or something else? Be familiar with the papers and have them in front of you when you call. If you don't have the ability to fax or scan documents to get them to your lawyer, figure out ahead of time how you will do so, by going to a copy service or a friend's house, or by taking the original to your lawyer's office. Make an outline of what you want to discuss with your lawyer before you meet with them, and what information you'd like to get out of the conversation by the time it's over. Send it to your lawyer ahead of time so you're both on the same page, and if you have any relevant documents, scan and email those too.

WHEN TO CHILL INSTEAD

Hiring your lawyer may not be worth the expense or effort in some irritating situations, such as the following:

- A. When it is "a matter of principle."
- B. When a neighbor has planted a hedge on the property line or has a tree hanging over the fence.
- C. When someone has been fired for no apparent reason after a brief stint on the job.
- D. When a contractor goes over budget.
- E. When someone has written something about you that you find offensive.



Yes, these are all irritants. You might be angry. You should call your lawyer to discuss the matter. But if our advice is to let it go, you should follow that advice. We understand you are sensitive to fees and we want to help you make good business decisions concerning litigation. That includes helping decide when to settle, to forego litigation or to litigate vigorously.

If you want to discuss your particular matter, contact [Mark Frankel](#) or any of our other Couzens Lansky [litigation attorneys](#) at (248)489-8600.