

### HOW TO CHOOSE A QUALIFIED ESTATE ATTORNEY

1. Choose an estate planning and probate attorney for your estate-related needs. General practitioners simply don't have the knowledge, skill, judgment or experience to plan your estate properly.
2. Choose an attorney who earns at least 75% of his law practice revenue from estate planning and estate administration. If you go to an attorney who receives less than this amount, you won't get an expert.
3. Choose an attorney who wants to help you avoid unnecessary administration costs by avoiding probate, if appropriate. Some estate planning attorneys earn their livings from probate. Make sure that the attorney discusses the pros and cons of probate for your particular situation and does not just blindly steer you to avoid probate.
4. Choose an attorney you trust. Nothing is more important in a attorney/client relationship than having an attorney you trust.
5. Choose an attorney who provides excellent service. Anything less is not acceptable.
6. Choose an attorney who will answer all of your questions. You won't make good decisions if your questions remain unanswered.
7. Choose an attorney who will return your phone calls promptly. You should never hire an attorney who won't respond promptly to your needs.
8. Choose an attorney who has roots in the community. Such an attorney cares about his reputation and is more likely to be available in the future when you need help.
9. Choose an attorney who is a respected source of information – one who has dedicated his practice to helping people understand their asset protection and estate planning alternatives.

10. Choose an attorney who charges reasonable flat-rate fees. If the fee is low, the attorney may be leaving something out. And if the fee is sky high, the lawyer may be overcharging you.
  
11. Choose an attorney who will give you written guarantees.

Also, ask specific questions about your estate planning goals, such as:  
*How can I reduce estate taxes? How can I provide for children from a prior marriage? How can I leave money for my child's education? How can I require that my children stretch out distributions from my IRA?*

**Atty. Patrick S. Sylvester**  
Licensed in IL, WI, MN & FL  
**SYLVESTER LAW FIRM, PC**  
1000 Skokie Boulevard, Suite 420  
Wilmette, IL 60091  
Phone: (847) 251 – 2999  
Fax: (847) 251 – 1999  
E-mail: [pss@sylvesterlawfirm.com](mailto:pss@sylvesterlawfirm.com)  
Web-site: [www.sylvesterlawfirm.com](http://www.sylvesterlawfirm.com)