

Looking for a Lawyer in a SLAPP Suit?

If you have been sued and think it might be a Suit Against Public Participation (SLAPP suit), talk to a lawyer immediately. For more about SLAPP suits, visit TexasLawHelp.org.

The Texas Citizens Participation Act makes it possible for the court to order the person suing you to pay your lawyers' fees. This means you should try to get a lawyer if at all possible.

Complete this document and show it to a lawyer. To find a lawyer, call the State Bar of Texas Lawyer Referral Service, 800-252-9690.

Answer each question honestly and completely. The lawyer may have more questions for you and want you to provide more material. Or, they may have their own intake form.

If a question does not apply to your particular situation, write "N/A" in the blank. If you don't know the answer, just write, "I don't know."

If you need more space to answer to any question you can answer it on a separate sheet. Refer to the question number to which the answer applies. Then, attach the sheet to this checklist.

Until you give this completed form to a lawyer, keep it safe.

The purpose of an initial consultation is for the lawyer to advise you (the *prospective* client) what you can do. *The purpose of your meeting might not be for the lawyer give you a full legal opinion.* It may be impossible to fully assess a case within the time frame for a consultation, or with the (information or documents) that you may be able to provide at the initial consultation.

One of the following three outcomes is possible following your consultation:

1. You and the lawyer agree to the terms of representation and sign an agreement.
2. The lawyer declines representation.
3. You decide not to hire the lawyer.

The following questions will help the lawyer to understand why you want a consultation.

Your Information

My name is: _____
Print your name here.

Have you ever used a different name? CHECK one. Yes No

If you have ever been known by a different name, please list it here: _____

Why did you use this name?

(For example, maybe it was your maiden name.) _____

When did you use this name? [List dates.]

From _____

To _____

Print your full address: Street, State, ZIP code.

Write your email address above.

Write your phone number above.

If you want a consultation for your business or organization, write its information below:

Organization Name: _____

Print the business's full address.

Write a business contact email address above.

Write the business phone number above.

Type of Business or Organization: _____

Other Parties

Are there any other parties involved? (Examples: a friend, an employer, a neighbor, signor of a contract, etc. This should include parties on either side of your issue.)

Party: _____ Relationship: _____
Party: _____ Relationship: _____
Party: _____ Relationship: _____

Please attach any useful information you have about the parties. (See checklist on TexasLawHelp).

On the lines below, list any papers that you think may help a lawyer understand the issue.

Attach copies of the documents to this form.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Lawsuit or Potential Lawsuit Information

Have you been served? Yes No (If yes, include a copy of the citation and petition).

Who is their lawyer? (Name, bar number): _____

If served: Have you filed an answer? Yes No (If yes, attach a copy of the answer.)

Are you involved in any other lawsuits now? Yes No (If yes please provide the cause number, county, court number, and names of the parties.)

If things turn out precisely the way you want, what would the outcome be?

Knowing that there are no guarantees, what can you accept?

How urgent is this matter?. (Check one)

- Critical – Personal safety or continuation of business depends on it.
- Very important. Severe hardship, personal or financial inconvenience if matter is not resolved quickly.
- Important – Matter interferes with business or personal financial stability.
- Needs to be done, but no immediate hardship in the interim.
- Just thought I'd see if it was worth pursuing, but I'm not counting on anything.
- Just wanted to know what my rights are.

If the matter involves payment of money you feel you are owed how long can you wait before not getting paid?

- Days Weeks Months Years

Have you have talked to any lawyers about this? Yes No

If no: Why didn't you hire the other lawyers?

Have you ever been represented by an attorney before? Yes No

If yes: Please state the circumstances.

Marital Status: Married Single Divorced Widowed Separated

Drivers License No. (last 3 digits): _____ Social Security No. (last 4 digits): _____

Where do you work? _____

Is it OK to contact you at work? Yes No If yes, phone No. (____) _____

If your mail is returned as undeliverable or telephone service terminated, please provide the name of someone (friend or relative) you believe will always know how to contact you.

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Following your initial interview, if you agree to hire the lawyer—and the lawyer agrees to represent you—you will both sign an agreement for representation. The agreement will set out the terms and conditions of representation.

If the lawyer is willing to represent you but you decide not to sign an agreement immediately, schedule a second appointment with the attorney as soon as possible or talk to another lawyer as soon as possible so you can protect your rights.

This form is not a contract. You give it to the lawyer to help them evaluate your case.

If your legal problems involve a potential lawsuit, be aware that a lawsuit must be filed within a certain period of time called a statute of limitations.