

Warnings for the Non-Citizen before hiring a Criminal Attorney

If you are in the unfortunate position where you need the services of a criminal lawyer, then non-citizens need to be extremely diligent about hiring a criminal attorney. Often immigrants hire criminal attorneys who do not research (or care) about the immigration consequences of criminal convictions.

Warning 1: Attorney does not ask you if you are a Citizen of the United States

Even if you look and sound "American" and have an American sounding name, a criminal attorney who has successfully represented immigrants will be keenly aware that being deported or losing status is probably the number one concern of an immigrant. If s/he does not ask, it should be one warning sign that the lawyer is not showing the appropriate concern for your most important issue.

Warning 2: He cannot give you a name of a single Immigration Attorney

If not, it is because he is an immigration attorney OR he does not even know one to consult with to ask about immigration consequences of convictions. If this is the case, it is likely you are in the wrong office. If he doesn't know one because he has not represented any immigrants, again wrong place for you.

Warning 3: Criminal Attorney brushes off your question about immigration

When you explain (if the attorney has not already asked) that you are not a U.S. citizen, the attorney simply states that he can't make any promises about whether any conviction will get you deported or not. This means attorney does not care, and is probably not the attorney for you.

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