

Consumer's Guide to Choosing the Right Divorce Lawyer

We created this questionnaire to help you make an informed decision about who you choose to guide you through a divorce or other family law issue. If you have other questions that you'd like to ask us, or if you'd like to discuss your specific situation, give us a call at 512.481.0330 or use the online form to [schedule an initial consultation](#).

	Trusler Menduni PLLC	Other Firms
What percentage of your practice is divorce and family law? I recommend that you find a lawyer that spends the majority of their time doing divorces.	Family law is our primary practice area. About 90-95% of the work we do at our firm is related to divorce and other family law issues.	
Are you Board Certified in Family Law? The Texas State Bar considers Board Certified family law attorneys to be experts in the field of divorce and family law. Less than 1% of Texas lawyers are Board Certified in Family Law.	Cristi Trusler and Becca Menduni are both Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.	
How much experience do you have with situations similar to mine? This is a particularly important question if there's anything unusual about your situation.	We've handled everything from very simple divorces to situations involving multi-million dollar businesses and complex international custody disputes. We can discuss the specifics of your situation during an initial consultation.	
Do you have support staff? If an attorney doesn't have anyone to help with the work, then most likely everything done is going to be billed at the attorney's hourly rate.	We have 2 full time family law paralegals and we use them extensively throughout a case. In general, we have the paralegals do as much of the work as possible because it's less expensive for the client.	
Are there other attorneys at your firm that will be working on my case? Sometimes situations require immediate attention. You want to know that there's someone with experience you can talk to if your attorney is unavailable for some reason.	There are two attorneys Board Certified in Family Law at the firm, Cristi Trusler and Becca Menduni . Each client usually has a primary attorney, but we regularly back each other up when it's needed.	
Do you have malpractice insurance? According to the Austin American Statesman, more than half of Texas attorneys do not carry malpractice insurance and about 2/3 of sole practitioners do not have coverage.	Our firm carries malpractice coverage.	

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What resources do you have for me to educate myself and/or help me work through the divorce process?	We have an extensive Divorce Education Center at www.AustinDivorceHelp.com that contains a large number of videos such as our Austin Divorce Seminar , tons of articles, and free Audio CD's that will help you educate yourself about divorce and your options. We also have the No Nonsense™ Divorce Workbook that our clients can use to work through the big decisions of their divorce without paying a lawyer every step of the way.	
What are my payment options?	We take all major credit cards and we also offer payment plans.	
Do you offer flat or fixed fees?	We offer fixed fees for some of our services at Trusler Menduni. Many of our No Nonsense™ Divorce packages are available for a fixed fee.	
Do you have a minimum retainer amount?	We don't have minimum retainers. We set retainers for each individual based on your specific situation.	
Do you have a minimum amount that you bill me for? Some attorneys bill in 15 minute increments or they may have some other minimum amount that they bill you for any time they do something on your case.	We bill in 6 minute increments (or 1/10th of an hour.) We don't have minimum billing amounts - we only bill you for the time we spend working on your case.	
What are the hourly rates of the people that will be working on my case? Be very careful of making a decision based on price alone. I don't recommend hiring someone just because they're cheap. If someone is cheap, it may be for a reason.	Our paralegals bill out at \$100 an hour, Becca Menduni's rate is \$275 an hour and Cristi Trusler's rate is \$325 an hour. But since we shift work to the paralegals to keep the costs down (when it makes sense), the average hourly rate that many of our clients pay is actually between \$125 and \$185 an hour. Also, we don't bill hourly for our fixed fee services.	
Are you comfortable with them?	We've tried to give you plenty of information to help you make an informed decision, but you may not be able to answer this until you speak with us. Call 512.481.0330 to schedule an initial consultation .	
How many collaborative cases have you completed? If you're serious about finding an experienced collaborative attorney, I would be wary of hiring anyone that's done less than 5 or 10 cases.	Our firm has completed more than 100 collaborative cases. If you'd like more information about collaborative divorce, you can request our free Collaborative Law: Divorce with Dignity Audio CD and watch our Collaborative Divorce Seminar Video .	

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