



# Avoid Fraud by Lawyers

***Watch out for fraud by lawyers in response to the recent NorCal wildfires.***

Lawyers and their representatives **cannot** do any of the following:

- Contact you in person or by telephone unless you make the first contact
- Solicit your business at an accident scene, at a hospital or on the way to a hospital
- Solicit your business if you are unable to exercise reasonable judgment because of your physical, emotional or mental state



The State Bar of California

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- Send you a communication that implies the lawyer is part of a lawyer referral service certified by the State Bar when this is not true
- Send you solicitations by mail unless the letter and envelope are clearly labeled as an advertisement
- Promise a particular outcome from legal representation

## How to Report Fraud by a Lawyer

- Call the State Bar of California's multilingual intake hotline to file a complaint at **800-843-9053**
- Download complaint form at:  
[www.calbar.ca.gov/public/complaints-claims](http://www.calbar.ca.gov/public/complaints-claims)



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## How to Find a Lawyer to Help You

- Free legal hotline for NorCal wildfire survivors:  
**415-575-3120**
- Free legal services for low-income Californians:  
[LawHelpCA.org](http://LawHelpCA.org)
- To consult or hire a private attorney, contact a lawyer referral service (LRS) certified by the State Bar of California. Visit the State Bar's website at [www.calbar.org/lrs](http://www.calbar.org/lrs) or call **866-442-2529**



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## What Should I Know Before Hiring a Lawyer?

- The State Bar has information on its website about what you need to know at: [www.calbar.ca.gov/Public](http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Public)
- You can look up a lawyer's record to make sure s/he is licensed to practice law in California and to find out if there is a record of discipline at: [www.calbar.ca.gov](http://www.calbar.ca.gov)