

Questions To Ask When Selecting a Court Reporting Firm

The role of a court reporter is critical to the success of an attorney's case, both in terms of the accuracy of the transcript and the services they provide. Choose the wrong [court reporting](#) firm and you could end up with transcripts containing errors that, even if minor, could affect how the attorney reads and interprets the testimony provided. This raises the question "how do you choose the right court reporting firm?" The answer, as it is with any [litigation support](#) question, is always "carefully." Prior to searching for the right court reporter, you should prepare a list of questions designed to narrow the field until all that remains are the **court reporters** - or court reporting firms - that specifically fit your individual needs.

Here are a few of the questions to consider when choosing your next court reporting service...

What is Their Experience?

You should always check references when retaining the services of a court reporter. Ask for references, and specifically request references that contain parallels with your own case. Additionally, take some time to ask about the court reporter's abilities, from the amount of court reporting experience they have to any certifications they may hold. When you follow up on the references, ask questions that can yield an insightful answer, rather than a basic "yes or no" response. Focus on questions that address any area of [court reporting services](#) that you may have specific concerns about, and you'll be more likely to get answers that can help you make the right decision to meet your individual needs.

What Areas Do They Serve?

If you are looking to individual court reporters or small court reporting firms, find out what geographical areas they serve. In many cases, [depositions](#) may need to be taken in different cities, so you'll need a court reporting firm that can coordinate the logistical requirements of your case. This won't usually be an issue for most of the regionally or nationally focused court reporting firms, who often have multiple offices and can cover most locations.

What Services Do They Offer?

Arguably just as important as the experience, you should always determine the exact services that the court reporter offers before making your decision. Do they offer standard or realtime court reporting? Do they have the technological base to provide an online case repository? What formats do they provide the transcript in? How quickly is the transcript provided? There is a significant range of services offered by court reporting firms, so you'll want to make sure that the court reporter you retain can provide the specific services that will assist you effectively manage your case.

What Packages Do They Offer?

Not all court reporting firms deliver their transcript packages the same way, and sometimes it is difficult to know what you're going to get. More technologically advanced companies can offer packages that deliver the transcripts electronically in multiple formats. Some companies on the cutting edge can even provide transcripts and case materials on a handy USB flash drive that can literally be carried around in your pocket. By having the packages broken down, you can see which packages provide the specific services to match your needs and enable you to make the right decision.

How Do They Charge?

Court reporting costs can vary dramatically from one firm to the next, so a few well-targeted questions regarding the fee structure can help save you money while still ensuring that you receive all of the [litigation services](#) you need. Instead of weighing the cost in terms of page rates, you should always consider total invoice. When speaking with the sales representatives, you should find one who is knowledgeable not only in their services, but how they'd be applied to your individual solution. You want your sales rep to be more like a consultant than a salesman; focused in on how to save you money, rather than up-selling you to increase their commission.

Determining which court reporting service to work with is an important step in the overall process. By taking the time to thoroughly investigate all the aspects that will affect the attorney-to-court reporter relationship, you'll be able to make the right choice every time!

888.893.3767
WWW.DEPOTEXAS.COM