

THE GREGORY LAW FIRM

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STATEMENT OF CLIENT'S RIGHTS

Client: _____

Before you, the prospective client, complete a fee agreement with an attorney, you should understand this Statement of your rights as a client. This Statement is not a part of the actual contract between you and your attorney, but as a prospective client, you should be aware of these rights:

1. There is no legal requirement that an attorney charge a client a set fee in a case. You, the client, have the right to talk with your attorney about the proposed fee and to bargain about the rate as in any other contract. If you do not reach an agreement with one attorney, you may talk with other attorneys.
2. If your attorney begins to represent you, your attorney may not withdraw from the case without giving you notice, delivering necessary papers to you, and allowing you time to employ another attorney. Often, your attorney must obtain court approval before withdrawing from a case if a case is filed. If you discharge your attorney, you will have to pay a fee for work the attorney has done.
3. Before hiring an attorney you, the client, have the right to know about the attorney's education, training, and experience. If you ask, the attorney should tell you specifically about his or her actual experience dealing with cases similar to yours. If you ask, the attorney should provide you with information about special training or knowledge and give you this information in writing if you request it.
4. If your attorney intends to refer a case to another attorney or counsel with other attorneys, your attorney should tell you about that at the beginning. If your attorney takes the case and later decides to refer it to another attorney or to associate with other attorneys, you should sign a new contract that includes the new attorneys. You, the client, also have the right to consult with each attorney working on your case and each attorney is legally responsible to represent your interest and is legally responsible for the acts of the other attorneys involved in the case.
5. You, the client, have the right to know in advance how you will need to pay the expenses and the legal fees during the case. If you pay a deposit in

advance for costs, you may ask reasonable estimate about future necessary costs. If your attorney agrees to lend or advance you money to prepare or research the case, you have the right to know periodically how much money your attorney has spent on your behalf. You also have the right to decide, after consulting with you attorney, how much money is to be spent to prepare a case. If you pay the expenses, you have the right to decide how much to spend.

6. You, the client, have the right to be told by your attorney about possible adverse consequences if you lose the case. Those adverse consequences might include money, which you might have for attorney's fees to the other side in a civil case.
7. You, the client, have the right to ask your attorney at reasonable intervals how the case is progressing and to have these questions answered to the best of your attorney's ability. Often a question or comment communicated by telephone to the law office of your attorney may be adequate to handle your needs. However, you should call and make an appointment to meet with your attorney or with his staff as the need arises.
8. You, the client, have the right to make a final decision regarding settlement of a case. Your attorney must notify you of all offers of settlement before and after the trial. Offers made during a trial must be immediately communicated and you should consult with your attorney regarding whether to accept a settlement. However, you must make the final decision to accept or reject a settlement.
9. If at any time, you, the client, believe that your attorney has charged an excessive or illegal fee, you have the right to report the matter to The Florida Bar by calling 904-222-5286 or contact the local bar association. Any disagreement between you and your attorney about a fee can be taken to court and you may wish to hire another attorney to help you resolve this disagreement. Usually fee disputes must be handled in a separate lawsuit.

I certify by my signature that I have read the above Statement of Client's Rights. I understand my rights and have asked questions where it was necessary.

Client's Signature

Date Signed

Co-Client's Signature

Date Signed

Attorney's Signature

Date Signed