

How to Confirm that Someone is ACTUALLY a Lawyer

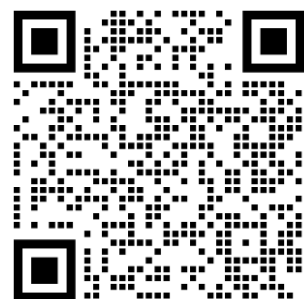
Licensed California Attorneys

Practicing Attorneys **MUST** have an Active license with the California State Bar*

How to Check a License

- Ask for the attorneys full name / state bar number
- California State Bar Attorney Search:

<https://apps.calbar.ca.gov/attorney/LicenseeSearch/QuickSearch>



- Confirm the person's information matches the information on record with the state Bar.
- Make sure the license status is **Active**

What Different License Statuses Mean:

Status	Definition
Active	Only active licensees may practice law in California.
Inactive	Applies to licensees who choose voluntarily not to practice. They may return at any time to active status by paying required fees and complying as necessary with any fingerprinting requirements.
Not Eligible to Practice Law	May not practice law in California. Reasons may include suspension, involuntary transfer to inactive status, failure to pay mandatory fees, MCLE noncompliance, and voluntary resignation petition pending with the Supreme Court.
Disbarred	Prohibited from practicing law in California by order of the California Supreme Court.
Resigned	May not practice law in California. Their resignation has been accepted by the California Supreme Court and may have been submitted with or without disciplinary charges pending.
RIHC	Registered In-House Counsel are out-of-state attorneys. They have complied with rules permitting them to practice in California on a limited basis.
RLAA	Registered Legal Aid Attorneys are out-of-state attorneys. They have complied with rules permitting them to practice in California on a limited basis.
RMSA	Registered Military Spouse Attorneys are out-of-state attorneys. They have complied with rules permitting them to practice in California on a limited basis.



You Should Know

- Practicing law without a license is a crime (CA Bus & Prof Code 6125 & 6126).
- Soliciting (offering services for a fee) is against the Law Library's Rules of Conduct
- **Incorrect or incomplete legal advice may damage your claims or your ability to pursue your rights.**

Victim of Non-Attorney Fraud?

- Report non-attorney fraud to the California State Bar's multilingual complaint hotline at 800-843-9053
- Claims can be filed online for the Unauthorized Practice of Law by a non-attorney (www.calbar.ca.gov).
- Law librarians can provide resources on how to file a complaint and credible resources to search for an attorney.



People you meet in the library may offer legal advice or services they are not legally permitted to provide.

It's important to always verify the credentials of individuals offering legal services.

Notes

*For some federal law matters an attorney may be licensed in a state outside of California. You can search the state bar website of where that attorney is licensed to confirm their credentials