## WHY YOU NEED A LAWYER IN CALIFORNIA

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Some problems do not need a lawyer and can be handled by other professionals. However, some problems are best handled by a lawyer about major life events or material matters.

Examples of when to hire a lawyer though not exclusive include the following:

- 1. Being charged with a crime
- 2. Being served with documents related to a legal process
- 3. Being involved in a serious accident causing personal injury
- 4. A change in family status, such as a divorce, adoption or death
- 5. A change in pending financial status, such as buying a home, filing for bankruptcy or getting a large inheritance.
- 6. Buying or selling a business
- 7. Setting up a business

A lawyer is a licensed professional by the State of California who has gone through schooling and licensing. Lawyers in California have both an undergraduate degree, a law school degree, pass the California bar examination and pass a character and fitness review by the committee that investigates character and background.

Having your own lawyer helps in avoidance and mitigation the consequences of a crisis. Lawyers can be hired on an hourly basis or contingency fee basis depending upon the type of matter involved.

Getting your own lawyer can create peace of mind knowing that an expert can be in your corner to assist you in making the correct decisions. Hiring an experienced lawyer is your best assurance of a successful outcome.

## AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT, DOG BITE, OR VICTIM OF A SHOOTING

These types of cases are civil matters. A crime has not been committed but rather an accident or negligence has occurred. These are the type of cases that TERRY M. GOLDBEERG can handle at Goldberg & Gage.

In the event of most accidents, people don't hurt each other on purpose and so it's not a crime. Jail time is not a punishment for an accident. The at-fault person is not charged with any felonies or misdemeanors. Instead, a civil wrong is referred to as a tort. A tort is a wrongful act or an infringement of a right leading to civil legal liability. In other words, the injured party has the right to be made whole by the person responsible for the accident. Our goal is to see that our client receives a sufficient settlement to meet their needs resulting from an accident. These needs may include payment of medical bills, repairs or replacement of a vehicle or other property damage and compensation for lost wages or compensation for lost capacity to function in normal, everyday activities. Some cases are settled at an early stage and some cases result in the filing of a lawsuit.

At Goldberg & Gage we can decide with your approval the best approach to take for you. Call Terry M. Goldberg at (818) 340-9252.