

Be Wary of Unlicensed Individuals Who Try to Take Your Case

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When looking for an attorney, you should be wary of individuals who try to take on your case who are not licensed to practice law. When consulting with an attorney, before signing any documents, be sure to ask whether they are licensed by the State Bar of Michigan and whether they have experience in the relevant area of law pertaining to your case. Finally, be careful of paying large sums of money to someone who claims to “guarantee” a favorable outcome for your case. No one can guarantee an outcome in your legal matter.

Unlicensed individuals who offer legal services may be engaging in the unauthorized practice of law. It is the unauthorized practice of law for a person to exercise legal discretion on behalf of another person, or practice law for another person, when they are not legally authorized to do so. Some of the most common areas of unauthorized practice of law include immigration, real estate, wills and trusts.

You may find helpful resources for these areas of law and others on the State Bar of Michigan’s Unauthorized Practice of Law website. Here, you may also find other helpful resources, including a lawyer referral service and a form and instructions on how to file an UPL complaint. For more information, please go to <https://www.michbar.org/professional/upl> or <https://lrs.michbar.org/>