

10 Must-Know Tips for Hiring a Vocational Expert to Strengthen Your Case

- 1. Check Credentials and Qualifications**
Ensure the expert has an advanced certification as a Certified Vocational Expert (CVE).
- 2. Evaluate Relevant Experience**
Choose an expert with specific experience in your type of case, whether it's personal injury, worker's compensation, disability, or employment disputes.
- 3. Assess Expertise in Labor Market Trends**
Select a vocational expert who is knowledgeable about current labor market conditions, trends, and specific industry needs to provide accurate earning capacity assessments.
- 4. Ability to Provide Clear, Understandable Testimony**
Look for an expert who can clearly explain complex vocational assessments and analyses in a way that a judge and jury can easily understand.
- 5. Experience with Legal Procedures**
Ensure the expert is familiar with the legal system and comfortable with depositions, cross-examinations, and testifying in court if needed.
- 6. Thorough Evaluation Methods (ask about the tests they administer)**
Verify that the expert uses proven, comprehensive assessment methods, including job analysis, skills assessments, and vocational testing, to ensure credible conclusions.
- 7. Strong Report Writing Skills**
The expert should be able to provide well-written, detailed reports that support their findings and are easily understandable for attorneys, clients, and the court.
- 8. Objectivity and Independence (ask about Daubert challenges)**
Choose a vocational expert who remains impartial and objective, offering a professional, fact-based opinion rather than supporting one side's narrative.
- 9. Availability and Timeliness (ask about their trial schedule)**
Ensure the expert can meet deadlines and is available for follow-up questions, consultations, or court appearances as needed throughout the litigation process.
- 10. Reputation and References**
Research the expert's reputation in the industry by reviewing references or feedback from attorneys and clients who have worked with them in similar cases.

By following these tips, attorneys can select a vocational expert who enhances their case and provides reliable, credible support for employability, earning capacity, and rehabilitation claims.