



Do I Need an Immigration Lawyer or Consultant?

Key Elements to Identify if You Should Hire an Immigration Lawyer or Consultant



Do I Need an Immigration Lawyer or Consultant?

	Immigration Lawyer	Immigration Consultant
Trained / Licensed to Work on the Immigration Cases?	Might Be	Yes
Express Entry	Might Be	Yes
Spousal Sponsorship	Might Be	Yes
Citizenship	Might Be	Yes
Student Visa	Might Be	Yes
Visit Visa	Might Be	Yes
Business/Investor Visa	Might Be	Yes
Permanent Residency	Might Be	Yes
Denied Entry	Might Be	Yes
Immigration Refusals	Might Be	Yes
Federal Court Cases	Yes	No



Note: Immigration consultants must take a 6-12 month training program on immigration cases based on the most recent Canadian immigration laws. The certification exams of lawyers do not cover the latest immigration rules. If seeing an Immigration Lawyer, **you need to confirm they have Immigration-specific training.**

	Immigration Lawyer	Immigration Consultant
Liability Insurance	Yes	Yes
Service Guarantees in Handling Immigration Cases?	No	Yes



Note: Law firms take on different types of cases, not just immigration. Though some may say they can work on immigration, that doesn't mean they have experience in it. Consultants **only** work on immigration cases.

	Immigration Lawyer	Immigration Consultant
Accreditation - Law Society of Ontario	Yes	Yes
Accreditation - BBB	Might Be	Yes
Accreditation - ICCRC	Might Be	Yes



Note: While both immigration lawyers and consultants will generally have accreditation from THEIR RESPECTIVE the Law Society of Ontario and Better Business Bureau (BBB), consultants are also required to have accreditation by the ICCRC. If working with a lawyer, **make sure they have ICCRC accreditation.**

	Immigration Lawyer	Immigration Consultant
Support Staff with Experience in Immigration Cases.	Might Be	Yes



Note: Immigration is not the focus of most law firms. These firms may not have staff with experience managing immigration files. But consulting firms will have staff for completing immigration forms and collecting documents.