

As a general rule, defamation occurs when someone makes a statement of fact about you, that is false, they know the statement is false, they "publish" the statement to a third party and you are harmed.

Libel is defamation that is written. Slander is defamation that is spoken.

- Did my former employer defame me when he told a prospective employer that I stole money?
- Did a publication defame by saying that I was involved in illegal activity?

These are just some of the many issues that a Defamation lawyer can address for you.

Questions to Ask and Information to Obtain About your Prospective Attorney:

Does the lawyer have experience representing people who have sued for defamation and people that have been sued for defamation?

How long has the lawyer been doing this type of work?

Does the lawyer have experience with your particular type of case (e.g., defamation claims against a newspaper are very different than claims against a former employer who has given a bad reference)?

Does the lawyer have experience litigating a defamation case including preparing pleadings, conducting depositions and handling motions?

Has the lawyer tried a defamation case to a verdict before a Judge or a Jury?

Does the lawyer participate in relevant local, state and national bar/defamation law associations?

Does the lawyer teach other lawyers about how to handle defamation cases?

Does the lawyer have a web site or other information about his/her professional experiences and credentials?

Can the lawyer provide you with the name of a former client or two that would be willing to discuss their experience with the lawyer?