Question to ask a potential Financial Advisor:

1) What licenses do you hold? Securities, Insurance, etc.

2) What financial planning designation(s) or certification(s) do you hold?

3) Are you personally licensed or registered as an investment adviser? If so, with which states? The Federal Government?

4) Will you provide me with a written disclosure detailing any disciplinary history for you or your firm?

5) What financial planning continuing education requirements do you fulfill?

6) Do you have experience in providing advice on the following…
Retirement Planning
Investment Planning
Tax Planning
Estate Planning
Insurance Planning
Comprehensive Planning
Education Planning
Business Planning

7) What are your areas of specialization?

8) How long have you been offering financial planning advice to clients?

9) How many clients do you currently have?

10) How are you compensated? What do you typically charge? What is your fee structure?

a. Fee-Only: An advisor may describe his or her practice as "fee-only" if, and only if, all of the compensation from all of his or her client work comes exclusively from the clients in the form of fixed, flat, hourly, percentage or performance-based fees.

b. Commission-Only: Denotes the compensation generated from a transaction involving a product
or service and received by an agent or broker, usually calculated as a percentage on the amount of his or her sales or purchase transactions. This includes 12(b)1 fees, trailing commissions, surrender charges and contingent deferred sales charges.

C. Fee and Commission: If an advisor and any related party receives or is entitled to receive both commissions and fees for providing professional activities, the advisor must disclose his or her compensation as “Commission and Fee.”

11) Do you have a business affiliation with any company whose products or services you are recommending?

12) Do you have a minimum net worth or income requirement?

13) How often will we discuss and/or review my financial situation?

14) Will you be the only advisor working with me?

15) As an advisor, what do you expect from me, the client?