

Options If Your Lawyer is Ineffective

- When looking for a new lawyer search for them first here:
<https://www.padisciplinaryboard.org/for-the-public/find-attorney>
 - If a complaint has ever been made against them it will be listed on this website
- Email your lawyer with specific questions and ask that they respond by a specific date.

Hello Attorney Blank,

- File a complaint with the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of PA
 - Find the form at: [padisciplinaryboard.org](http://www.padisciplinaryboard.org)
 - The outcome of such a complaint could be suspending the lawyer from practicing law for a period of time or permanent disbarment
 - You will not receive any money
 - The court will not order your lawyer to do anything
 - However, this is a serious matter for any lawyer so the threat of filing a complaint might be enough to persuade your lawyer to do their job
- Report the lawyer to the Bar Association in their county
 - Philadelphia Bar Association: <http://www.philadelphiabar.org/page/HomePage>
 - Specifically, if the issue is about a fee dispute (your lawyer demanded more money part way through the case without informing you at the beginning) find more information on resolving the problem here:
<http://www.philadelphiabar.org/page/LawyerClientFeeDisputes?appNum=1>
- You can also find a new lawyer through the Philadelphia Bar Association referral service: <https://iris.philadelphiabar.org/>

With court-appointed lawyers (not public defender, not private):

- Call 311 to get the number for the courtroom. The crier or clerk in the room should answer. Explain the issue with the court-appointed lawyer (can't reach the lawyer, can't get updates, hasn't attended hearings, the case keeps getting continued, etc) and state that the defendant wants to ask the judge to appoint someone else.
- Get the issue in writing by emailing the attorney and clearly explaining what you have experienced or are currently experiencing. You can also state what action you are taking or planning to take (ie asking the judge to appoint someone else).
- File a pro se motion for new counsel.