

## Lawyers vs. Immigration Consultants (Non-Lawyers)

There have been many cases of “fake” consultants taking the money of innocent people and promising a “guarantee” of services. Unfortunately, this can never be done because it is up to Immigration Canada to approve cases.

**Licensed Attorneys are trained to understand the law and how Immigration works. Our training includes a 4-year bachelor’s degree, 3-years of law school and taking the Bar Exam.** In addition, Attorneys have malpractice insurance to protect clients and **attend immigration interviews and advocate for applications in a Federal court of law**, in the rare case that applications are brought under judicial review.

**Immigration Consultants are NOT Lawyers. They do not attend law school and only undergo a 1-year certification in order to become registered.** It is also not required for immigration consultants to have completed an undergraduate degree to start their certification. **While immigration consultants are legally able to represent you, ONLY lawyers are permitted to represent clients in Federal Courts.** Therefore, Immigration Consultants **must seek the services of a Licensed Attorney when they receive rejections to argue and defend the application in Court.**

There are also many “fraudulent” or “ghost consultants” out there, amounting to a significant number of instances of negligence. Negligence and fraud continue to be problematic. Attorney’s take an oath and must adhere to the rules and regulations of the licensing Bar. We are governed by the local Bar and we provide protection to the public to mitigate fraud and negligence with a higher standard of governance.

There are many misconceptions between an Attorney and Immigration Consultant. I hope that I have provided sufficient information to separate the two. For many people, immigrating is a dream and a significant endeavor. There are many steps, many options and many obstacles, thus ensuring the best representation.

As a last thought, I would urge you to review the following articles from Immigration Canada (the governing body for Canadian Immigration) regarding services provided by Fraudulent Immigration Consultants:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2019/05/canada-takes-action-on-fraudulent-immigration-consultants.html>.

As per the Government of Canada, “In Canada, **Lawyers who are members of a law society of a province**, notaries who are members of the Chambre des notaires du Québec and paralegals (Ontario only) [who are members of the Law Society of Upper Canada are authorized](https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2020/01/a-fraudulent-immigration-consultant-charged-under-the-immigration-and-refugee-protection-act.html) to provide immigration counselling. See <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2020/01/a-fraudulent-immigration-consultant-charged-under-the-immigration-and-refugee-protection-act.html>