

**Why does the attorney refuse to speak with me
about my family member's criminal case?**

Family members, friends and relatives of a criminal defendant often experience frustration because the lawyer refuses to discuss with them the pending criminal case (especially if they paid the attorney fee). This is often due to the lawyer's ethical obligations to the client. The Texas State Bar Rules and the "Texas Rules of Evidence" govern the circumstances under which a lawyer may reveal confidential information.

In criminal cases, a client has a privilege to prevent the lawyer from disclosing any fact which came to the knowledge of the lawyer by reason of the attorney-client relationship.

Under certain circumstances, an accused, or criminal defendant, may authorize his or her lawyer to discuss a case with third persons. Any such authorization will usually involve only unprivileged client information, and then only in the event of express authorization by the client.

Third persons must realize that the attorney-client privilege may be waived, or lost, if privileged communications are revealed or disclosed to others.

I hereby authorize my attorney, David Scoggins, to fully discuss my case, within the limits of his judgment alone, with the following persons:

Name

Relation to me

Name

Relation to me

Name

Relation to me

Name

Relation to me

SIGNED THIS _____ day of _____, 20____.
