



# INVENTION DISCLOSURE CHECKLIST

The following checklist will help you have a more productive meeting with your patent attorney.



## BASICS

Understand the basics of the patent system, the timeline and financial commitment. Knowing a little can help you manage expectations.



## BACKGROUND

Describe the state of the art and the background of the invention. Describe the problem to be solved.



## DETAILS

Prepare notes to aid in discussion. Describe the details of the invention and the advantages over current devices. What components are necessary? What modifications are possible?



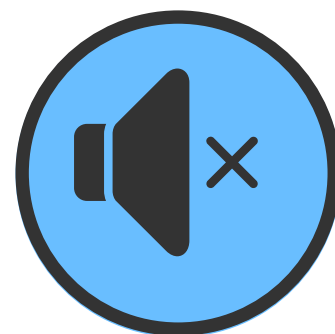
## DRAWINGS

Provide figures to help understand your invention. Formal drawings are not required at this stage, and hand sketches are often sufficient.



## PRIOR ART

List any prior art that may be relevant. You and your attorney have a duty to disclose them to the patent office.



## SILENCE

It's crucial to keep everything secret until you speak with a patent attorney. No offers for sale, and no public disclosures.



## WHO'S WHO

Be careful in considering inventorship. Have a conversation with your patent attorney about contributions and what acts rise to the level of inventing.



## STRATEGY

Discuss your objectives. Do you merely want to be "patent pending" as soon as possible or do you have other plans? Think about foreign filings.

This checklist is merely informational and does not constitute legal advice.

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