

Math Tutor (Client)

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FOR ROMA NEEJAN (Math Tutor)

Your name is Roma Neejan. You are a nationally known tenured math professor at Thorsten Veblen University and a finalist for the Fields Medal. You have taught a variety of math subjects, including number theory, calculus, and basic set theory. You are a leading candidate to take over as head of the math department after the long-awaited retirement of the current chair.

A former student of yours has a nephew who needs tutoring in calculus. Apparently, he is a pretty well-known expert on crime. You are pretty busy with your classes and you are also finishing up a new article, but you could use the extra money, and you are a little bit curious about the tutoring project. Your former student told you that her nephew is going to be quizzed in calculus by the White House so that he can be some sort of math advisor to the President. And perhaps you could be the advisor's advisor? Who knows, but you are intrigued. (You may want some assurances that this appointment is real and not some sort of delusional fantasy.)

You would need to start this assignment soon because you are very busy. In addition to your article and classes, you are hosting a conference on infinity coming up next semester and preparations could take forever.

If you are going to provide the tutoring, there are a few items that will need to be addressed. You have retained legal counsel to make sure that there is a clear deal in place eventually, and that you get what you want. You have been burned in the past by agreeing to provide help, where people have not paid you or the job was more complicated than advertised. You understand that today's meeting is just the preliminary stage to begin the discussions. You might not get a deal done today, but you hope to make good progress.

One critical concern you have is the payment for your services. This potential "student" sounds like he can afford the best – and you are the best. You can certainly teach just about anyone calculus, but it is no easy task and you want to be well compensated. You also want to make sure that this is real – so you want a nice, healthy down payment of sorts (money up front). Overall, including the advance, you expect to make at least a few grand, although see how much the lawyer can get – maybe even more?

On a related point, you live in Forest Lake, which is several miles away. You would like to be reimbursed for any travel and any other costs, such as copies, purchasing textbooks, etc.

Additionally, you would prefer to be called "doctor." Since this student will be working for the White House, you feel as if you need to ensure a certain level of hierarchy to your role. Although many are quite comfortable with a more relaxed communication between teacher and student, you have always appreciated the formalities of title (a long-held convention in the field of math), so you would like to be referred to as doctor in all communications – including phone calls and emails, of course.

Also, if you are to travel to the tutee's home, you expect to be served something delicious to eat and a refreshing beverage, like iced tea or natural soda (sweetened with cane sugar, not corn syrup).

Before you meet with your attorney, carefully consider what you are looking for in this deal. You are investing your time and treasure in this attorney, and you might as well get your money's worth. Explain to your attorney that you do not need a full written agreement at this point. Feel free to share whatever information you feel is necessary (without showing anyone this page).