



The litigation process is expensive. Many people rack up high legal fees only to find the person or company you are suing doesn't have anything of value. In other cases, you may be in the midst of negotiating a settlement prior to filing a lawsuit and want to see how far you can push the negotiations, or if you should cut your losses and settle. Attorneys don't always have the legal authority to access information about liquid assets such as bank accounts and investment accounts; however, they need information quickly, discreetly, and *legally*. We can help.

There are two aspects in determining whether you should sue a person or a company – potential assets and potential liabilities. Of course, there may be a whole host of hidden assets, but here are a few key assets and potential liabilities that can be identified quickly, discreetly, and legally in a pre-litigation asset search:

ASSETS

Personal Assets

This includes their home, motor vehicles, boats, and airplanes. Assets may also be held by a close associate, family trust, family member, or shell company.

Business Assets

Assets may also be held in a corporate entity, which can be discovered through secretary of state filings and research.

LIABILITIES

Bankruptcy

If the person or company has filed for bankruptcy protection, you will be notified, and you can file a claim in the bankruptcy proceeding; however, they may have a history of filing for bankruptcy that could be beneficial to know.

Civil Litigation

If other civil litigation has already been initiated against the person or company you are about to sue, it may be a sign to settle quickly.

Contact Fortaris Capital Advisors to assist you in making an informed decision on whether you should file a lawsuit.