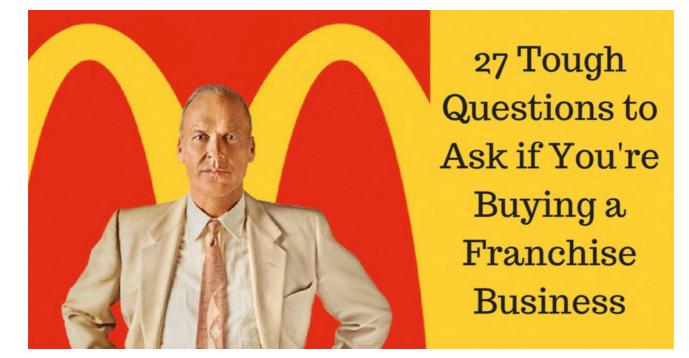
# 27 Tough Questions to Ask if You're Buying a Franchise Business

Did you see The Founder, with Michael Keaton as businessman Ray Kroc? This is the true, behindthe-scenes story of how Kroc purchased a burger restaurant from the McDonald brothers and created the McDonald's fastfood chain - what both sides did right, and what they did wrong! Know Before You Buy: Here are 27 tough questions to ask before you start life as a franchise owner.



## Background

- 1. How did this business get started?
- 2. When did you sell your 1st franchise?
- 3. What are your future growth plans? What are your income streams and profits?
- 4. Why should I invest in your franchise, and not another?

### Leadership

- 5. What is the experience of your leadership team?
- 6. Who would my contact be as a franchisee?
- 7. Can I meet and talk with other franchisees?
- 8. How do you evaluate whether a potential franchisee is a good fit for this business?
- 9. How do you communicate with franchisees?
- 10. How do you resolve disputes with franchisees?

#### **Financing and Legal**

- 11. What is my investment cost to open?
- 12. After my start-up costs, how much operating money will I need to break even, and to make a profit?
- 13. How many franchise locations do you have? How many are profitable? How many fail each year?
- 14. What are my franchise fees and obligations: rent, utilities, monthly royalty, marketing costs, advertising fees, insurance, legal fees, etc?
- 15. What are my potential profits? What royalties do I pay? What's my revenue stream?
- 16. How is a location secured? Who holds the lease?
- 17. What is a franchisee's liability and obligations if the business or the franchisee is sued?

#### **Training and Operations**

- 18. How does training work: onsite, offsite?
- 19. What is your ongoing training and support?
- 20. Is there a written operations manual?
- 21. How does it work if I have an idea for growing the business? Am I allowed to innovate? Do I get a royalty if my concept is implemented system wide?
- 22. What steps are taken for quality control? How do you assure my franchise is not damaged by another franchisee's failures?

#### **Marketing and Sales**

- 23. How do you research and track consumer demands for this product? What is the business plan for my potential franchise?
- 24. Do I have exclusive franchisee rights to a specific geographic area?
- 25. Are you a member of any business organizations, such as Chamber of Commerce?

#### Exit Strategy

- 26. Do you have any plans to sell the business?
- 27. What are the requirements if I want to sell my franchise?

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Created By Anthony Caliendo - http://www.thesalesassassin.com/