

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM YOUR ATTORNEY IN YOUR PERSONAL INJURY CASE

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I believe that an informed client is a happy client. Being informed is knowing what to expect during the process of your personal injury case. I can't tell you what every personal injury attorney does, but I can tell you what I try to do for my clients. Keep in mind that every case is different, but most clients can expect me to:

- Educate them on the personal injury claims process and the litigation process.
- Obtain all written records and documents that are needed to develop and support their claim. This includes, but is not limited to, medical records, the police report and employment records.
- Conduct an investigation of the facts surrounding the accident. I will obtain witness statements, photographs, diagrams and other physical evidence.
- Review your automobile insurance policy to determine what coverage is available to you to compensate you for your damages, like medical, hospital and wage loss benefits. Additionally, uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage is looked at to see if they are applicable to your accident.
- Review the medical records from your doctors and meet with them when necessary. This can be done in person or telephonically.
- Retain experts and then obtain reports when needed to support your claim for damages and/or liability.
- Analyze legal issues and advise on those issues as they arise in your case.
- File the necessary forms with the at-fault insurance company and the client's own insurance company, including PIP applications.
- Analyze your health insurance policy and/or governmental benefit plan (such as Medicare or Passport) to determine whether any money paid by that policy is required to be reimbursed.
- Contact and maintain contact with the insurance company about your claim to help ensure adequate reserves are set aside for the potential settlement of your claim.

- Conduct negotiations with the insurance adjuster in an attempt to settle your claim, before litigation.
- When a lawsuit has to be filed, I will prepare and draft the Summons and Complaint to be filed in Court.
- Confirm the address of the Defendant for personal service of the Summons and Complaint.
- Draft written questions for information from the other side (called Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents).
- I will help you respond to interrogatories sent by the defendant.
- I will prepare you for your deposition.
- Prepare for and conduct the deposition of the Defendant and any other witnesses that are necessary.
- Meet with your doctors to prepare for their deposition whether it is a defense deposition or their trial deposition.
- Prepare and take the deposition of the Defendant's experts, including medical experts.
- Prepare you for a medical examination by the Defendant's doctor, called an Independent medical Exam.
- Review your medical records and billings.
- Hire experts to support and prove your claim when necessary. These include other physicians, economists, engineers, vocational experts, etc.
- Review and analyze expert reports about your case.
- File all documents in Court as required by the Judge's Trial Order, including witness lists, exhibit lists, trial memorandum, jury instructions, motions in limine, etc.
- Meet with and prepare you and other witnesses for trial.
- Create and prepare exhibits for trial.
- Organize records and other documentary evidence intended to be introduced at trial.
- Prepare for mediation when ordered by the Court or agreed to by the parties.

- Research and write briefs and file motions with the Court when required.
- Perform or participate in mock trials or focus groups to prepare for trial when deemed necessary.
- Try the case before a judge or jury.
- Write briefs or motions following the verdict to obtain post-trial relief, including motions for attorney fees, or to overturn the verdict.
- Analyze the trial record to determine if an appeal is warranted (if the trial is a loss).
- Research and write briefs and motions if appeal is filed.
- Negotiate subrogation claims asserted by client's insurance company or governmental agency that provided benefits to client.