



## How Can I Help My Lawyer With My Claim?



Your personal injury lawyer will do much of the most difficult work on your claim, but you will need to assist in a few important ways.

While gathering all the records and information pertinent to your case your lawyer will ask you to keep important records. These will include a list of potential witnesses who can testify about the accident, all of your medical bills, other expenses, and an accounting of lost wages. Your attorney will need you to sign authorization forms in order to obtain copies of medical and employment information.

It is vital that you stay in contact with your lawyer. If you move or change your phone number, make sure that you let your attorney know right away. You will also be asked to keep all medical appointments. Failure to attend an appointment for treatment can work against your claim.

First and foremost, you need to do all that you can to heal from your injuries. This may seem counterproductive to your claim, but you are legally obligated to make an effort to recover.

## What Can a Personal Injury Lawyer Do for Me?

Trying to settle a personal injury claim with the insurance company on your own can be very difficult. Insurance companies are adept at preventing claimants from receiving anything but minimal damages. Hiring a personal injury lawyer who understands how to work with insurance companies helps level the playing field.

Your attorney will study your case thoroughly, interview witnesses, access the police and medical reports, visit the scene of the accident, and review appropriate case law. At times a private investigator is hired to assist with gathering all of this information.

Once the initial investigation is completed, your attorney will arrive at a value of your case, then negotiate this with the insurance company. Most claims settle, but sometimes an agreement cannot be reached, in which case it may need to be litigated.



## What Happens in a Personal Injury Claim?

If you are injured in an accident due to someone else's negligence, the first step you need to take is to get medical treatment. This is very important, for if you wait to get help you will give the impression of not really being injured.



You should then contact the defendant's insurance company. If you decide to work with a lawyer, he or she will contact the insurer and handle all further contact.

The next step is to gather evidence to support your claim. Your lawyer will interview witnesses, get copies of reports, and conduct a full investigation of your accident. Once this is concluded your lawyer will send a demand letter to the insurance company asking for a specified settlement. This amount is usually higher than you will receive. The insurance company should send a response to the demand, after which negotiations take place until a settlement figure is agreed upon.

If the insurance company refuses to settle for a reasonable amount, your claim may need to be litigated.