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## 5 Tips for Being a Good Witness

You may be the most important witness in your lawsuit. As a result, you may have the most influence to win or lose your case if you are called to testify in court. Here are some tips for making yourself the best witness possible:



1. **Prepare.** You will want to know what you are talking about. Prepare for the trial by reviewing your medical records, depositions, and statements you may have given.
2. **Dress the Part.** If you dress sloppily, your testimony may be overshadowed by your appearance.
3. **Be Honest.** Never exaggerate or lie under oath.
4. **Avoid Sarcasm and Humor.** A courtroom is not a place to try out humor or to be sarcastic and snarky with your opponents.
5. **Have Manners.** You should remember to be polite to everyone in court. This includes both the judge and the opposing counsel.

## Collecting Your Special Damages

It can be extremely difficult to collect money from your insurance company. These companies are notoriously tight-fisted and will go to extreme measures to deny your claim. However, if you are able to prove special damages, you will put yourself in the best position to collect. Generally, special damages include well-documented injuries that you can prove by:



1. **Facts and Figures:** You can prove injury and harm suffered with medical bills, statements of lost income, costs of physical therapy, and other hard evidence.
2. **Objective Injuries:** Doctor's notes and testimony from experts about the extent of your injuries can be very persuasive to an insurance company.

Special damages are typically contrasted with general statements of pain and suffering. Insurance companies will typically deny or challenge claims that are based solely on your own testimony regarding pain and suffering, or on the vague testimony of your friends and loved ones

## Why It Can Be So Hard to Settle With Large Insurers

Your ability to collect from your insurance company may depend upon the size of the insurance company. Large national insurers are more than happy to litigate claims. On the contrary, smaller insurance companies are far more likely to be reasonable and explore possible settlement.



Some common reasons why it may be difficult to settle with a large insurance company include:

1. **Attorneys.** Many large insurance companies have attorneys on staff pushing for litigation.
2. **Money.** The wealthier the insurance company, the less likely it will be to settle out of fear of losing.
3. **Time.** A large company has all the time in the world to litigate a claim. This is time that most claimants don't have.
4. **Motivation.** Adjusters at a large company are often paid bonuses to not settle and to get you the smallest payout possible.

Your case is important to us. If we can't help you, we'll do our best to refer you to someone who can.

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