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How to Prepare for a Deposition

A deposition is generally a sworn statement you will make about case. Here are ten tips for a successful deposition:

1. Dress. Depositions are oftentimes videotaped and you will want to look professional.
2. Prepare. Your attorney should help you prepare and no question should come as a complete surprise.
3. Be Honest. Never lie.
4. Don't Argue. A deposition is not a place to argue your claim.
5. Be Polite. Opposing counsel can be difficult, but you should always be polite and respectful.
6. Listen. Know what you are answering before answering.
7. Think. Consider the question and answer directly.
8. Be Concise. Never offer more than you have to.
9. Speak Clearly. Be confident with your answers and enunciate your answers.
10. Remember Body Language. Your body language can say as much as your words.



Don't Sabotage Your Own Lawsuit

Sometimes you can be your own worst enemy in a personal injury lawsuit. Your conduct before and during the trial can sabotage your chances of winning without you even knowing. To avoid self-defeating behaviors, keep these tips in mind:

1. **Keep Friends and Loved Ones in Check.** You may want to let your family members and close friends understand what is going on. If you are in a highly-public dispute, you will want to monitor what your family members say.
2. **Maintain Contact With Your Attorney.** If circumstances change or new facts arise, you will want to keep your attorney updated immediately.
3. **Be Aware That Someone is Watching.** If you claim a serious injury, you can expect that insurance adjusters and others are monitoring you for inconsistent behavior.
4. **Follow Doctor's Orders.** Failure to listen to your doctor can seriously damage your case.



How Your Own Negligence Affects a Lawsuit

In a personal injury lawsuit, you will ultimately have to show that the defendant was negligent and liable for your injuries. In cases where the defendant is fully responsible, liability is relatively easy to prove. Unfortunately, in most cases, one party is generally not one hundred percent responsible. In these cases, you will have to look at comparative negligence.



Generally, comparative negligence means the role that your own negligence played in causing your injuries. A judge or a jury may view your negligence in the following ways:

1. **Lose Your Case Completely.** In some jurisdictions, your negligence in causing your injuries can eliminate your ability to collect damages completely.
2. **Reduces the Amount You Can Collect.** Some juries may consider your negligence in reducing the total amount of available damages.
3. **No Affect.** Your negligence may have no impact on your ability to collect.

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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