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FEAUTURED ARTICLE When and How to Hire a Personal Injury Lawyer



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You Don't Have To Face Soulless Insurance Companies Alone

It's easy to assume that car and truck accidents always happen to "someone else". That is, until the negligence of another driver impacts your life. When this happens, it's crucial you have the resources you need to protect your rights.

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When and How to Hire a Personal Injury Lawyer

After you've suffered injury in an accident due to the negligence of someone else, you don't want to be left to pick up the pieces on your own. You want to concentrate on your recovery.

But how are you going to pay your medical bills? You've had to take ample time off of work, and your sick leave doesn't cover your lost income. Your injuries aren't your fault: You wonder if there's a way to recoup your wages?

Perhaps you've reached out to the insurance company to file a claim. You feel like they're dragging their feet: They refuse to settle, or, their offer doesn't account for what you've suffered.

You think you might need a lawyer, but you're worried hiring an attorney will lead to more financial burdens. After your accident, when should you contact and retain an attorney? How do you even go about hiring a personal injury lawyer?

Personal injury claims in Indiana

In Indiana, personal injury legal claims stem from accidents that result in emotional, psychological, or physical injury. An average of 400,000 personal injury legal claims are filed each year in the U.S., 92% of which are filed as a result of vehicle accidents.

Most personal injury cases are settled before they ever go to court. However, you may not receive the settlement you're owed if you engage in the legal process on your own. If you hire an expert personal injury lawyer, you can trust that they will fight to ensure you receive valid compensation for your claim.

Indiana is a comparative fault state: This means the courts determine who holds fault for your accident, and if you bear partial fault, the amount of personal injury damages you can seek are limited.

For instance, if you are intoxicated and fall in a privately-owned business, your comparative fault may equal 50% or more. Even if the restaurant holds fault as well, your personal injury claim would be rendered void. In Indiana, personal injury claims are only valid if you are less than 50% responsible for your accident. A personal injury lawyer can help you determine whether your personal injury claim has merit and is worth the time and money it will take you to file.

Accidents that can lead to personal injury claims

In Indiana, a plethora of situations can lead to a personal injury claim. Some of the most common accidents to justify a personal injury claim include:

- Medical Malpractice: If you are under the care of a physician and suffer unmerited injury, you may have a valid personal injury claim. (For example, your surgery was performed incorrectly or the birth of your child was hindered by a botched procedure.)
- Product Liability: If you've purchased a manufactured product that malfunctions and leads to injury, you may want to hire a lawyer to pursue a personal injury claim. This category also includes prescribed drugs. (For example, a heavy dresser breaks and falls on you due to incorrect manufacturer construction. Or, your prescribed medicine leads to adverse effects.)
- Slip and Fall Injuries: If you slipped and fell on another's public (city, state, or federally-owned) property or on private property due to negligence. (For example, a restaurant fails to post "Wet Floor" signs on newly-mopped floor, and you fall and break your leg)



- Vehicle Accidents: Any car, motorcycle, or truck accident that causes severe injury due to negligence from the at-fault party. (This includes any vehicle that strikes pedestrians or cyclists.)
- Workplace Accidents: Poorly maintained workplace environments which lead to injuries. (For example, if you work in a manufacturing plant and suffer an injury due to outdated equipment that doesn't meet safety requirements.)

Why you should hire a personal injury lawyer

A personal injury lawyer can help you navigate through the legal process of your claim. A lawyer can also give you an honest opinion about the legal merits of your case. If you're worried about the cost of retaining an attorney, look for a lawyer who charges on a contingency basis (i.e., no money upfront, and the lawyer only gets paid if you win your case).

The attorney you hire can do the following:

- File all necessary paperwork
- Gather all pertinent documents related to your caseSpeak on your behalf in any mediation or arbitration
 - meetings
- Utilize a legal team to gather the forensic evidence of your case
- Contact forensic experts to testify on your behalf

When to hire a personal injury lawyer

After your accident, you need to take several steps before hiring a personal injury lawyer. You may even want to write out a checklist before you contact an attorney.

Steps to take before hiring a lawyer include:

- Filing a police report
- Gathering photo and video evidence in the immediate aftermath of your accident
- Seeking medical attention

You may contact the insurance company before you hire a lawyer. However, if the company pushes back on your claim, or requires a plethora of legal hoops for you to jump through, it may be time to retain an attorney.

Before you contact a lawyer, you should have a general understanding of your injuries and who was at-fault in your accident. If it's obvious that you hold over 50% of comparative fault or you haven't suffered any injuries, you may decide not to contact a lawyer.

Read more about When and How to Hire a Personal Injury Lawyer at: https://yoshalawfirm.com/blog/



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