Everything You Need To Know About Personal Injury Lawsuits
What Qualifies as a Personal Injury Case?

- Vehicle Crash
- Products Liability
- Premises Liability
- Labor and Delivery Injuries
- Car Accidents
- Motorcycle Accidents
- Airplane Accidents
- Train Accidents
- Medical Malpractice
- Dangerous Product Accidents
- Wrongful Death

- Dangerous Drugs and Devices
- Tractor-Trailer Collisions
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Trucking Accidents
- Drunk Driving Accidents
- Boat Accidents
- Severe Burn Injuries
- Nursing Home Negligence and Abuse
- Structural Accidents / Defects
I've Had An Accident - Now What?

Immediately following an accident, figuring out the most logical next steps can be difficult. Here are the most important things to do:

1. **Contact** emergency personnel
2. **Seek** medical treatment
3. **Report** the accident to your insurance company and to authorities if necessary
4. **Document** as many details about the situation as you can remember - this will help in the future
5. **Talk** to an attorney
Feelings You Can Expect

The process of going through a personal injury lawsuit is different for everyone, depending on many factors. What follows, however, are some emotional states that personal injury victims usually experience.

1. Being Overwhelmed
No one plans on having to deal with a personal injury lawsuit. It is natural to feel overwhelmed with the unfamiliar, uncomfortable, and difficult scenarios you are now faced with.

2. Distress/Anxiety
Personal injury victims may feel unsure about the situation they are in. You may ask yourself: How did I get here? When will it be over? Will life ever return to normal? The answers to these questions depends on each individual case.
Feelings (Continued)

3. The Need to Multitask
It can be difficult to focus on taking care of yourself or another injured party while also doing what needs to be done in order to keep your lawsuit going, not to mention attending to all the tasks required by everyday life!

4. Uncertainty
Even after you make a decision to either settle or sue, you may still feel unsure about it. Would your life be easier if you didn't have to deal with your lawsuit? Maybe, but just remember - whatever decision you made, it was with your long-term health and well-being in mind.
**What are the steps that follow an injury?**

1. Medical treatment
2. Find a lawyer
3. Work with lawyer to complete paperwork and obtain necessary documentation (like medical records)
4. Lawyer gathers facts and determines whether settling or suing is the best option for you
5. Settle or sue
6. Trial
7. Compensation or appeal
Expenses

What are the typical costs incurred as a result of a personal injury lawsuit?

- Medical
- Lost wages
- Potential loss of earning capacity
- Physical and emotional pain
- Potential damage to existing relationships (ex: spouse or children)
- Lifestyle changes
- Contingency fee (percentage depends on lawyer)

There is no typical overall cost for a personal injury lawsuit. The facts of each individual case are unique, so costs are adjusted accordingly.
Suing vs. Settling

*Which is better?*

Insurance companies usually prefer to settle. However, good personal injury attorneys will take the time to gather evidence and supporting testimony, and engage in negotiations with insurance claim adjusters on your behalf. If a fair settlement cannot be reached, the case will go to trial.
Things to Consider

*Before deciding to pursue a lawsuit*

- **Statute of Limitations**
  How much time has passed since the injury first occurred? Has the time to file a lawsuit run out?

- **Commitments**
  A lawsuit necessitates significant emotional and time commitments. Are you prepared to handle them in order to get the compensation you deserve?
What to Look For in a Lawyer

- Experience
- Knowledge
- Compassion
Thank You For Reading

This information has been compiled for your convenience by the legal professionals at Tate Law Group in Savannah, GA. If you ever have any personal injury needs, don't hesitate to contact us at 912-234-3030.