

GREY & GREY, PLLC

5 STEP GUIDE TO Personal Injury CLAIMS

1 Report the Accident.

It is crucial to **document your accident promptly.** Taking immediate action can significantly help your case. Reporting an accident to the responsible party not only alerts them to a potential claim, but also triggers their responsibility to preserve specific evidence. Remember to record the name and title of the person you reported the information to.

How to report different types of accidents:

- **Motor Vehicle Accidents:** Call the police to the scene. If they don't come, exchange information with the other driver and then go to the closest precinct and file a report.
- **Construction Site Accidents:** Report the incident to a supervisor, foreman, or site safety officer. Request that they write an incident report and take photos.
- **Slip/Trip and Fall on a Premises:** Report the incident to the property owner, tenant, or maintenance company. Request an incident report.
- **Bus Accidents:** Report to the driver of the bus and request a supervisor write a report.

2 Take Pictures/Video.

Capture important visual evidence to enhance your case. Take photos or videos of the vehicles involved, the accident location, and any contributing factors such as snow, ice, water, broken sidewalks, or construction sites. Document any visible signs of injury, such as cuts and bruises. If witnesses take photos and/or video, ask for them at the scene of the accident if possible to avoid evidence being lost or destroyed.

3 Write Down Names of Possible Witnesses or Defendants.

It is crucial to identify potential defendants or witnesses during the preliminary investigation. If you were injured on someone else's property, make sure to obtain the address of the location where the accident occurred. Also, collect the names and contact information of anyone who was in the vicinity at the time of the accident and may have witnessed what happened or spoken to you about it. Witnesses can help confirm your version of events. Having their names and contact information immediately after the accident can make your case stronger.

4 Seek Medical Attention.

It is crucial to be examined by a qualified physician in order to rule out any potentially life-threatening injuries. Seeking immediate medical attention will help prove your injuries are a result of the accident. Let your doctor know your injury is accident related. Accurately and thoroughly describe your injuries as this information will be used to assess your case's strength.

5 Consult an Attorney.

Personal injury attorneys only get paid if they win compensation for their clients. Hiring an attorney early can prevent mistakes that might cause issues later. Different types of personal injury cases have specific deadlines, and missing these deadlines can prevent you from pursuing your claim.

DO I HAVE A CASE?

The most common method in seeking recovery for personal injuries is to bring a lawsuit for "negligence" when someone else was partly or entirely at fault for an accident that resulted in an injury. Some examples of a negligence lawsuit are a car accident, a slip and fall, or a trip and fall. There are often laws or regulations that create standards of responsibility that make people liable for financial damages if they do not follow the rules, particularly in car accidents or cases that involve a property defect like a broken handrail or inadequate lighting.

In some cases, the law creates liability even if there was no negligence such as in construction site accidents where a number of laws and regulations make owners and general contractors responsible for workplace safety. When a construction worker falls from a ladder or a scaffold, when an object falls onto a construction worker, or when tripping hazards or sharp objects are left in passageways or work areas, the law often holds the owner and general contractor responsible for the accident and injury.

GREY & GREY WILL:

- Investigate your claim and, if indicated, prepare and file a summons and complaint to begin a lawsuit. We are dedicated to obtaining the best possible result for our clients.
- Have competent associates, paralegals, and staff who are informed about your case and able to speak with you when you call.
- Pay initial costs associated with bringing a lawsuit, such as court fees and investigative charges. Under New York State ethics rules, however, the client is ultimately responsible for these costs. If we obtain a recovery for you, costs that we paid for you must be deducted from that recovery.
- Appear at all court conferences or hearings scheduled in your case.
- Obtain the best possible recovery for you.
- Represent you at trial and argue on your behalf if your case cannot be settled.

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