

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU HIRE US

COPLAN + CRANE

OAK PARK'S PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS

IF YOU'VE BEEN INJURED DUE TO SOMEBODY ELSE'S NEGLIGENT OR CARELESS BEHAVIOR, YOU MAY HAVE GROUNDS TO FILE A PERSONAL INJURY CLAIM IN ILLINOIS.

1 WHY DO PEOPLE HIRE ATTORNEYS?

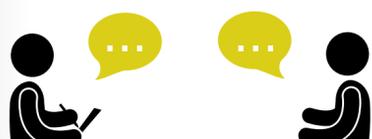
People might hire attorneys after being injured in these types of accidents:

-  Car Accidents
-  Truck and Bus Accidents
-  Railroad Accidents
-  Workplace Injuries
-  Accidents Involving Dangerous Products
-  Medical Malpractice
-  Property Accidents

3 MEETING WITH A CHICAGO PERSONAL INJURY LAWYER

When you meet with an attorney for your free case consultation, he or she will determine if you have a valid claim against a negligent party. The purpose of this consultation is to gather the basic facts about how the accident happened.

Communication is critical to building a successful personal injury case.



Bring supporting documentation to your case evaluation for the attorney to review, including the following:

-  1. Medical Records
- 2. Insurance Information
- 3. Documentation of Lost Wages

5 CAN AN ATTORNEY REACH A SETTLEMENT BEFORE TRIAL?

YES.

Many personal injury claims are resolved before a lawsuit is filed. Your attorney will negotiate with insurance companies and other parties to obtain a favorable settlement on your behalf.

If a settlement offer is made, your attorney will work with you to **determine whether the offer is acceptable.**



The decision is ultimately up to you.

7 WHAT IS DISCOVERY?

During the discovery process, attorneys will question:

-  each party
-  injury victims
-  involved third parties
-  doctors

about the claim. During this phase, lawyers from both sides of the legal dispute may require parties on the other side to (1) **answer interrogatories**, (2) **produce accident-related documents** and (3) **provide depositions** (statements made under oath) from witnesses and parties involved in the accident.

2 WHAT IS A PERSONAL INJURY CASE?

Personal injury is an area of law allowing an accident victim to pursue compensation for damages sustained in an accident.

This includes compensation for:



Medical Bills



Pain & Suffering



Lost Wages & Future Lost Wages



Other Monetary Damages

4 PREPARING YOUR CASE

After you choose to hire an attorney, he or she will investigate your case to fully understand how you were injured. The extent and costs of your injuries are determined in this process. Your lawyer will deal directly with insurance companies responsible for your compensation and, if necessary, the attorney for the party who injured you.

In order to build the strongest case possible, your attorney may:

-  Collect Additional Medical Records
-  Collect Additional Police Records
-  Visit the Accident Scene to Collect Evidence
-  Employ Accident Reconstruction Teams
-  Interview Witnesses
-  Retain Experts

He or she will then attempt to resolve the case out of court or, if necessary, file a lawsuit against the party who caused your accident.

6 WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CASE GOES TO TRIAL?

If a settlement cannot be reached, **and only at your discretion**, your lawyer can file a lawsuit in court. As the plaintiff, you are responsible for proving, in front of judge and jury, that the negligence of a person or business (the defendant) caused your injuries. Preparation for trial takes time and effort. Your attorney will prepare all necessary documents, file all necessary motions and work to prove fault in your accident case.



8 WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A VERDICT OR SETTLEMENT IS REACHED?

If an attorney is able to obtain a favorable settlement or verdict on your behalf, you will receive compensation for your injuries and other accident-related damages. Most attorneys work on a **contingency fee basis**, meaning all expenses and upfront costs are handled throughout the litigation process and reimbursed by you at the conclusion of the case. You only owe your attorney (typically between 33 and 40 percent) after a settlement or verdict has been reached on your behalf. This number range is dependent on variables specific to each individual case.

HIRING AN ATTORNEY PAYS OFF IF YOU'VE BEEN INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT.

DON'T ACCEPT LESS THAN YOU DESERVE.

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