



Injured on the go?
JustCallMoe.com

WELCOME

WELCOME



The team at the DeWitt Law Firm and Just Call Moe Injury & Accident Attorneys is delighted to extend our warmest greetings to you. I assure you that our team is committed to providing you with the highest level of representation and support throughout this legal journey.

We understand that seeking legal representation is a significant decision, and we are honored that you have chosen us to be your trusted partner. Our team of experienced attorneys and legal professionals is dedicated to serving your needs and fighting to achieve the best possible outcome for your case.

As your representative, I want to assure you that we prioritize open and transparent communication. We believe that a strong attorney-client relationship is the foundation for success, and we are committed to providing you with regular updates, answering your questions and addressing any of your concerns

One of our core values is excellence. We strive for excellence in every aspect of our work, from our strategic handling of complex cases to our attention to detail during every step of the legal process. You can trust that our team will always go above and beyond to deliver exceptional service and representation.

Furthermore, we take pride in our client-centric approach. Your unique needs and goals are at the forefront of everything we do. We will work closely with you to develop a personalized strategy that aligns with your objectives, ensuring that your voice is heard throughout the legal process.

I want to express my sincere gratitude for entrusting our team with your case.

We are honored to have the opportunity to serve you, and we look forward to a successful partnership. If you have any questions or require any assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any member of our dedicated team.

Once again, we welcome you, and we are excited to work with you. We are confident that together, we can help you achieve the results you deserve.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Moses DeWitt".

Moses DeWitt
DeWitt Law Firm

WORKING WITH A **LAWYER**

Hiring an attorney is not something most people do every day. In fact, many of our clients have never hired an attorney and are not sure what to expect.

At the Dewitt Law Firm, you and your case will receive the utmost attention from a skilled legal team that cares about you. Respect and compassion are our core values. We believe that clients are family.

When you speak with your attorney for the first time about your case, we ask that you provide all your supporting documents in advance of your call, including:



Accident reports (If you have one. If not, we will obtain a copy).



Photos and/or video from the accident and its aftermath, if possible.



Insurance information – either automobile insurance policies or any other insurance policies related to your injury case.



Copies of any medical bills you have received so far.



Emails, text messages or any correspondence related to the accident.



Any other information related to the accident or injury, including witness statements or witness contact information.



If you do not have any of this information, don't worry. We will help you obtain it on your behalf.

The attorney-client relationship at the Dewitt Law Firm is not one-sided. We must work as a team to fight to achieve the best outcomes. Keep us informed about any changes in your situation. Your participation is important as we work together for your success.

If you contact us, we will respond as quickly as possible. If we need information from you, we will need you to respond as well. Please understand that you may not always speak to an attorney. Our case managers are highly trained and can handle most of your questions and concerns.

We are here to help.

NAVIGATING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

After an accident or injury, one of the most challenging parts of any case is dealing with the medical system. Many clients tell us that speaking with doctors and medical providers is overwhelming. Here are a few tips for navigating the health care system:

BE HONEST ABOUT YOUR MEDICAL HISTORY

Being honest about your medical history is crucial for your case. Health care professionals rely on accurate information to provide effective treatment, especially after an accident. Sharing your medical history allows doctors to consider your complete health picture, including all illnesses and previous accidents or injuries. Hiding important medical information can hinder your case and lead to complications along the way.

ADVOCATE WHEN IT CONCERNS YOUR MEDICAL CONDITION

Speaking up to a doctor about your medical condition is of utmost importance. Your doctor relies on your input to accurately assess and diagnose your condition. By openly discussing your symptoms, concerns and any changes in your health, you provide crucial information that can lead to a more accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment. Remember, you are your own advocate.



BRING SOMEONE TO YOUR APPOINTMENTS

Getting to and from medical appointments may pose a challenge. If possible, consider asking a family member or friend to join you. Even if you feel OK to drive, it is a good idea to have someone else with you to listen to doctors and medical staff explain your condition and any treatment.

IF YOU MISS AN APPOINTMENT

Do your very best to make it to every medical appointment. Missing appointments may make it seem like your injuries are not as extensive as you claim to the insurance companies. Seeing a medical professional while your case is pending is vital. Long gaps in medical treatment are difficult to explain to insurance companies and juries.

KEEP US INFORMED

There is no need to contact us after every appointment with your doctor or physical therapy visit. However, if you see a specialist or receive diagnostic testing, such as a CT scan or MRI, please let us know. It is important that we know the date of the appointment, name of the specialist and any results from the appointment. This information may be important to your case.



A NOTE ON **COMPENSATION** AND **PAIN** IN YOUR **INJURY CASE**



Our team of compassionate and knowledgeable attorneys at the DeWitt Law Firm will be with you every step of the way during your legal journey. We will help you navigate the complex legal process.

In a personal injury case, you are entitled to compensation for the following:



MEDICAL EXPENSES:

You can seek compensation for past, current and future medical expenses related to your injury. This includes hospital bills, doctor visits, surgeries, medication, rehabilitation, therapy and any other necessary medical treatments.



LOST WAGES:

If your injury has caused you to miss work or resulted in a decrease in your earning capacity, you may be entitled to compensation for the wages you have lost. This includes both past and future lost wages. You may be asked to obtain your previous wage or tax records to prove past income.



PAIN AND SUFFERING:

You may be eligible for compensation for physical pain, emotional distress and mental anguish caused by the accident and your resulting injuries. Calculating the exact amount for pain and suffering can be subjective and depends on factors such as the severity of your injuries, the impact on your daily life and the duration of your recovery.



LOSS OF CONSORTIUM:

In cases where the injury has affected your relationship with your spouse, you may be entitled to compensation for the loss of companionship, support and intimacy.



PUNITIVE DAMAGES:

In rare cases where the defendant's actions were particularly reckless or intentional, the court may award punitive damages. These damages are intended to punish the defendant and deter similar conduct in the future.

We may ask you to keep a record or diary of your pain, the amount of your pain, when it occurs and what triggers it. Be truthful in your recording so we can get an accurate picture of what you are experiencing. Document the good days as well as the bad days. Keep in mind the other side is entitled to see your diary, so do not exaggerate or falsify any events or details.

It's important to note that Florida follows a "comparative negligence" rule. This means that if you are found partially at fault for the accident, your compensation may be reduced by your percentage of fault. However, if you are less than 50% at fault, you can still recover damages.

The specific amount of compensation you may be entitled to will depend on the details of your case, the extent of your injuries and the strength of the evidence presented. No two cases are identical.

A FEW MORE THINGS TO CONSIDER



CLIENT CONFIDENTIALITY

Client confidentiality is a fundamental principle at the DeWitt Law Firm. We will never discuss your case with any other person, including your spouse, without your explicit consent. This commitment to confidentiality fosters an environment where you can openly share sensitive details, allowing our attorneys to provide effective legal representation while maintaining the utmost privacy and professionalism.



MISSING WORK

Missing work and the loss of income add to the stresses of a recent injury or accident. If you must miss work due to an injury, ask your doctor for a signed notice ordering you to be out of work. Give your employer a copy of the notice as well as your attorney.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU

We welcome you to the DeWitt Law Firm family, and we look forward to helping you through this difficult time. Our goal is to resolve your case quickly and get you the compensation you deserve. Our team of attorneys, paralegals and support staff at the DeWitt Law Firm is always here to help. At the conclusion of your case, we hope to remain a law firm you trust and recommend to family and friends. If you or a loved one needs any legal assistance, don't hesitate to contact the DeWitt Law Firm.



IF YOU MISS AN APPOINTMENT

Patience is crucial during a personal injury case, as the legal process can be lengthy and complex. Rushing the process may lead to hasty decisions or less compensation for your injury. By remaining patient, our staff can thoroughly investigate, negotiate and build a strong case, increasing the likelihood of a favorable outcome. Patience also helps manage expectations, reduces stress and allows time for proper healing and recovery before pursuing legal actions.

During your case, we want your input. If there is anything you do not understand, contact us and ask. We are always here to help! Also, if you are ever unhappy with your experience, please communicate with us. We will do everything we can to resolve the issue.



REFRAIN FROM POSTING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

You were injured and you want to tell your family and friends about it, but don't do it on social media. Posting about the accident or discussing details on social platforms can potentially harm your personal injury case. Insurance companies and opposing parties may monitor your social media accounts for information that can be used against you. Anything you post publicly could be used in court. Refrain from sharing any accident-related information online to avoid jeopardizing your case. Also, don't post videos of yourself doing strenuous activities, enjoying vacations or anything the insurance company or a jury might consider inappropriate for someone who is injured.

A HELPFUL GUIDE TO **LEGAL** **TERMS AND PHRASES**



PERSONAL INJURY

Personal injury refers to the physical, emotional or psychological harm suffered by an individual due to the negligence or intentional actions of another party. It encompasses a wide range of injuries, including but not limited to bodily harm, medical malpractice, workplace accidents, slip-and-falls and motor vehicle collisions. Personal injury laws allow injured individuals to seek compensation for their damages and losses due to another person's negligence.

Personal injury cases typically involve seeking compensation for damages such as medical expenses, lost wages, pain and suffering, and property damage. The goal of a personal injury case is to establish liability and hold the responsible party accountable for their actions, ultimately securing fair compensation for the injured party.

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

Statutes of limitations are laws that establish time limits to file a legal action. The laws vary depending on the jurisdiction and the type of legal claims involved. These time limits are set to ensure that lawsuits are filed within a reasonable period after the incident, balancing the need for timely resolution with the preservation of evidence and fairness to all parties involved.

In the context of personal injury cases, statutes of limitations determine the time frame within which an injured individual must file a lawsuit seeking compensation. Remember, cases don't get better with age. It is crucial for individuals to be aware of the applicable statute of limitations in their jurisdiction and promptly take legal action if they believe they have a personal injury claim. Failing to meet the deadline can result in the dismissal of the case, barring the injured party from ever being able to seek compensation.



PLAINTIFF

A plaintiff is an individual or entity that brings a legal action or a lawsuit against another party in a court case. The plaintiff in your case is you. In a legal dispute, the plaintiff is the party who is claiming to have suffered harm, injury or damage as a result of the actions or negligence of the defendant. The plaintiff seeks a legal remedy, such as compensation or a specific court order, by initiating the lawsuit.

The plaintiff is responsible for presenting evidence and arguments to support their claims in court. They have the burden of proof, meaning they must establish that the defendant is liable for the alleged harm or wrongdoing.

DEFENDANT (or AT-FAULT PARTY)

A defendant is an individual or corporation who is sued in a legal action or lawsuit. It is likely the person who caused your injury and whom you are making a claim against. You may hear them referred to as the “at-fault party,” if the claim is being fought outside of court. However, when the plaintiff files a lawsuit, the at-fault party becomes known as the defendant.

The defendant’s role is to refute or challenge the plaintiff’s allegations and present their own evidence, arguments or legal defenses to contest the claims made against them. The defendant has the opportunity to make counterarguments, introduce evidence, call witnesses and present their case to dispute the plaintiff’s claims. In most instances, the claim process will be handled through the defendant’s insurance company. This is because they purchased insurance for protection.



INSURANCE COMPANY

The defendant usually has an insurance policy, just as you do. When you make a claim against the defendant, they report it to their insurance company. The purpose of insurance is to protect a person (or corporation) from being personally responsible to pay someone they negligently injured. The amount of money the insurance company might have to pay depends on the coverage limits that the defendant purchased from it.

Never talk to the defendant or anyone representing the defendant, including the insurance company, unless your attorney instructs you to do so. If you receive a call from a claims manager or adjuster about your injury or the facts surrounding the accident, refer them to your lawyer! They might sound friendly on the phone, but they are usually fishing for information that they will try to use against you later.

NOTE: As your attorneys, we may allow an insurance company to discuss property damage with you, so you can get your vehicle fixed and back on the road.



SETTLEMENT PROCESS

The settlement process of a personal injury case typically involves the following steps:



CONSULTATION AND EVALUATION:

The injured party consults with a personal injury attorney to discuss the details of the case. The attorney evaluates the circumstances, collects evidence, assesses the damages and determines the potential legal claims and their potential value. The damages are directly related to the injured party's medical treatment, among other factors.



DEMAND LETTER:

The attorney may send a demand letter to the responsible party, usually the defendant or their insurance company. The demand letter outlines the plaintiff's claims, injuries and damages, and includes a proposed settlement amount. This usually occurs after the injured party has completed significant treatment.



NEGOTIATIONS:

The defendant or their insurance company reviews the demand letter and may respond with a counteroffer. Negotiations between the parties' attorneys begin, aiming to reach a mutually acceptable settlement amount. This process may involve back-and-forth discussions, offers and counteroffers.



INVESTIGATION AND DOCUMENTATION:

During negotiations, both parties may conduct further investigation and gather additional evidence to support their respective positions. Medical records, expert opinions, witness statements and other relevant documentation may be exchanged and reviewed.



SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT:

If the parties reach a settlement through negotiations or alternative dispute resolution, they will draft a settlement agreement. The agreement outlines the terms of the settlement, including the compensation amount, any conditions or obligations and the release of liability.





**RELEASE AND
DISBURSEMENT:**

Once the settlement agreement is signed by both parties, the plaintiff typically signs a release absolving the defendant from any further liability related to the incident. Upon receiving the signed release, the defendant or their insurance company disburses the agreed-upon settlement amount to the plaintiff's attorney to be held in trust.



FINAL STEPS:

The attorney must make sure that all treatment providers, health insurance companies and liens are properly accounted for. If there are outstanding bills, these must be paid before the check can be disbursed. This is to help protect the client from surprise claims coming after settlement. Once all bills are negotiated, the client will get a check from the attorney.

It's important to note that each personal injury case is unique, and the settlement process can vary depending on the specific circumstances and the willingness of the parties to negotiate. No two cases are alike, and some cases take years. After a check is issued, the process is not over. We may still need to negotiate with medical treatment providers.



WHAT IF WE GO TO TRIAL?

The defendant or insurance company may have differing views on who is at fault for the accident or incident that caused your injury. If the defendant denies liability or the parties cannot agree on the extent of the defendant's responsibility, a trial may be necessary.

If that happens, we will file a complaint in court on your behalf against the defendant. Most likely, the insurance company will hire an attorney known as the "Defense Counsel," which will have 20 days to file an Answer to our Complaint. After an Answer is filed, your case enters what is known as the "discovery phase."

The discovery phase of a personal injury case is where both parties exchange relevant information and evidence, such as documents, witness statements and expert opinions, to build their cases and evaluate the strength of the opposing party's arguments. A typical discovery phase can take up to 12 months and sometimes longer.

After the discovery phase, most cases are sent to court-ordered mediation. During this process, a neutral mediator helps parties communicate, understand each other's positions and seek a settlement. If a settlement is not reached, the case will eventually go to trial, and a jury will hear the case.

You and your attorney will be required to attend the trial, which typically lasts between four and five days. A judge and jury will be present. Both parties present evidence, arguments and witnesses to support their positions, and the court makes a decision on liability, damages or any other relevant matters.

The jury will decide if you are entitled to compensation and the amount of compensation. Unless there is an appeal, the decision of the jury is final.

Ultimately, the decision to go to trial or settle out of court is solely your decision to make. You should discuss with your attorney the specific circumstances of your case when making your decision. It is important to weigh the potential risks, costs and benefits associated with each option before making a decision.





HOW LONG WILL IT ALL TAKE?

Every case is different, and, therefore, every case takes a different amount of time. Our goal is to resolve your case quickly. However, we cannot speed up the process. Please be patient with us and understand that we are doing everything we can to get you a fair resolution as soon as possible.



PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

A common misconception from our clients is that revealing a pre-existing condition will negatively affect the case. The truth is the aggravation of a pre-existing condition or injury may lead to a bigger claim. It is important for you to tell your attorney and your medical providers about any past medical conditions or injuries. Do not hide your medical past.



PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs and video of the accident and its aftermath, your injuries and your recovery can help your case. If you have photos from the accident, be sure to save them and give them to your attorney. Also, take photos of any cuts, bruises or scars during every stage of your recovery. It's best to date the photographs and send them to your attorney. As a reminder, do not share the photographs on social media. If you did not take photos at the scene of the accident, you can still take photos of your property damage or vehicle.

INSURANCE COMPANY TACTICS

Many insurance companies will use their resources to learn about you and your history, including if you have a civil or criminal record. This is normal in a personal injury case. If you have any concerns, please discuss them with your attorney. It is better that we hear these concerns from you, rather than the opposing side.

The insurance company will also likely try to obtain any information about previous accidents or injuries. They may also try to obtain your tax records. We suggest you have on hand the previous three years of your prior tax records. If you did not file taxes for any reason, please let your attorney know.

While the insurance company is seeking your information, we will also be doing our due diligence on the defendant.



DEFENDANT'S INSURANCE

Most defendants will have a liability insurance policy that will help protect them from a claim such as yours. The amount of insurance may depend on a variety of factors. No two cases and no two defendants are alike. Typically, a business, a medical provider or a homeowner will carry a larger amount of insurance than an automobile policy.

If your case goes to trial and you are awarded a settlement, the defendant is required to pay the difference between the verdict and any available insurance. However, the defendant may not have any personal assets in the form of bank accounts, real estate or personal property. If that's the case, you may get a personal judgment against the defendant, but you are unlikely to ever be able to enforce or collect that money.



YOUR INSURANCE POLICY

When you purchased your insurance, you may have also purchased additional protection. Oftentimes these add-ons may cover such items as medical bills ("medpay"), an uninsured or underinsured defendant ("uninsured/ underinsured coverage"). Give your attorney a copy of any homeowner or vehicle insurance policies. We may be able to determine if additional compensation or policies are available to you.

HELPING YOUR ATTORNEY

A few things to keep in mind when working with our attorneys:

01

From the beginning of your case until the end, the most important thing you can do is be honest with your attorney. Many cases are hindered when clients do not provide necessary information or try to hide information. Do not be embarrassed or afraid to talk openly with your attorney. We practice full client confidentiality.

02

Cases can often last many months or even years. During that time, it is not uncommon for clients to change addresses or get a new phone number. It is extremely important that we have your most up-to-date contact information. If we are unable to contact you, it can hurt your case.

03

When it comes to records and documentation about your case, keep everything. Our attorneys need to know the doctors, hospitals and medical providers that have served you. If you do not maintain extensive records and keep a diary, it may adversely affect your settlement.

04

Cooperation is key throughout the entire process. If there is ever a time you do not understand something, ask us! We will take the time to explain it. Also, be aware that we are working diligently to get you the very best outcome we can from your case. We understand that this process can be long and sometimes frustrating, but we are on your side. If you do have concerns or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

05

If we do something good or something that makes you happy, let us know. We like compliments, too.

WE ARE FAMILY

At some point, your case will conclude. However, we don't believe in "former clients." Maintaining relationships with every client we work with at the DeWitt Law Firm is a key part of our success. If you ever need anything from us, we are here for you. You will always be part of the DeWitt Law Firm family.