

7 Benefits of Hiring a Personal Injury Attorney

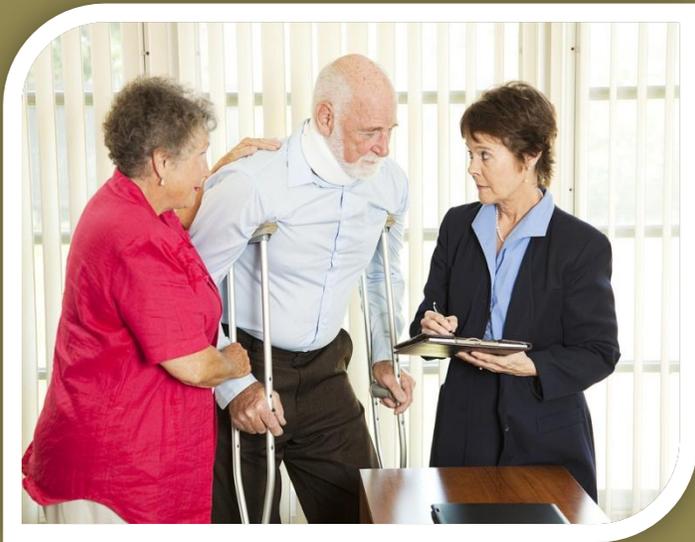


PERSONAL INJURY LAW

7 Benefits of Hiring a Personal Injury Attorney

People are injured every day because of the negligent acts of others. Car accidents happen when people text or drink and drive. Truck accidents may occur if truck drivers ignore their required break times to avoid driver fatigue. Work accidents may occur because an employer has failed to properly train staff or has ignored an ongoing problem. Personal injury attorneys represent accident victims to recover compensation for the injuries they have sustained. They serve important roles and provide ample benefits to clients, including:

1. Protect Your Legal Claim



A personal injury lawyer can help protect your legal claim. He or she can give you advice at the early stages of your case to ensure that your injuries are well documented, such as encouraging you to seek medical treatment and requesting medical releases so that he or she has all of your medical documentation. Additionally, he or she can notify you about any statutes of limitations that apply in

your case to ensure that an action is filed in a timely manner.

2. Determine the Value of Your Claim

This is likely the first time that you have been injured in a serious accident. Therefore, you may not know what it will really take for you to recover. An insurance company may offer a quick settlement in your case to entice you to accept it before you involve a personal injury attorney. However, such offers are often much lower than the real value of the claim. The insurance company is hedging its offer based on the idea that the accident victim likely needs the funds to pay medical bills and to replace income that the victim lost while out of work. It tries to leverage the deep pockets of the

insurance company against the disparate position of the victim. A personal injury attorney can evaluate such settlements and determine if they are simply inadequate based on your degree of damages. He or she can consider the multiple forms of damages you have sustained and base a demand for compensation from these figures. He or she may consider such factors as:

- The amount of your medical bills
- Whether any additional medical expenses will need to be incurred in the future
- How much time you lost from work
- Whether the accident will have a long-term impact on your life
- Whether the accident will impact your career
- How the accident personally affected you, your family and your social life
- Your pain and suffering
- The extent of your property damage

A personal injury lawyer can also use his or her knowledge of similar cases and their respective settlement value to determine a just settlement.



3. Negotiate with an Insurance Company

Insurance adjusters are employed to protect the financial interest of insurance companies. Their job is to minimize the amount of financial payout by the insurance company. As such, they may try to outright deny a claim, offer a low settlement value, attribute some of the blame to you or take other positions that favor a lower amount of compensation to you. This can be distressing, especially if you are trying to recover from your

injuries. A personal injury lawyer can handle all communications with the insurance company while you concentrate on your recovery. He or she is also experienced with negotiating with insurance companies and can put this experience to use on your claim.

4. Explain the Legal Process

A personal injury attorney can explain the complex legal process to you. He or she can provide information that can allow you to make an informed decision at each stage of your case. This can help you feel like you are at a more even playing field with the defendant who is likely represented by his or her legal counsel.

5. Explore All Legal Options



A personal injury lawyer can analyze the circumstances of the case to determine all possible legal options. Another defendant may be named in the case if facts support it. You may have additional claims, such as a workers' compensation claim if the accident occurred while you were working. You may be able to recover from your own insurance company for some of your damages.

6. Provide Advice

One of the important roles of a personal injury attorney is to serve as your advisor. He or she can explain how certain facts and circumstances may impact your case. He or she can recommend whether to accept a settlement offer or proceed to trial. While you will be responsible for making the final decision, it can be extremely helpful to have an objective and informed opinion.

7. Go to Trial

While most accident cases ultimately settle, it is important that your lawyer has litigation experience so if it becomes necessary to go to trial, he or she will be able to take this route. Trials are extremely complex. They involve complicated rules of procedure and evidence. A lawyer can present evidence in your case, cross-examine defendant witnesses and provide instructions to a jury.



Contact an Experienced Attorney

Now that you know the important benefits of having a personal injury attorney on your side, it is important that you contact one who is qualified to handle your case. John Bitzer has represented injured accident victims for more than 30 years, pursuing maximum compensation for injury victims and taking their case all the way to trial if the defendant has not offered a fair settlement.

Contact the **Bitzer Law Firm** at (618) 344-7722 or email John directly at john@bitzerlawfirm.com to set up a confidential consultation to review your case.

