



Run It By My Lawyer, with Joe Samo



10 Common Mistakes That Can Ruin Your Personal Injury Claim

If you've been injured due to someone else's negligence, filing a personal injury claim can help you recover compensation for medical bills, lost wages, and pain and suffering. However, making certain mistakes during the process can jeopardize your claim, leading to reduced compensation or even a denial. Here are ten common mistakes to avoid to ensure you get the settlement you deserve.

1. Failing to Seek Immediate Medical Attention

One of the biggest mistakes you can make after an accident is delaying medical treatment. Not only is this harmful to your health, but insurance companies may argue that your injuries are not severe or were not caused by the accident. Always see a doctor as soon as possible and follow their recommended treatment plan.

2. Not Documenting the Accident Scene

If you are physically able, gather as much evidence as possible at the scene. Take photos of your injuries, property damage, and the surrounding environment. Collect witness contact information and make notes about what happened. The more evidence you have, the stronger your case will be.

3. Admitting Fault

Even if you feel partially responsible for the accident, do not admit fault to anyone, including the other party, witnesses, or insurance adjusters. Liability is determined based on evidence and legal standards, and admitting fault prematurely can hurt your case.

4. Failing to Report the Incident

Whether it's a car accident, a slip and fall, or a workplace injury, always report the

incident to the proper authorities. For car accidents, call the police and obtain an accident report. For workplace injuries, notify your employer immediately. Proper documentation is crucial for your claim.

5. Giving a Recorded Statement Without Legal Advice

Insurance adjusters often ask victims to provide recorded statements soon after an accident. Be cautious—these statements can be used against you to minimize your claim. It's best to consult with a personal injury attorney before speaking to any insurance representatives.

6. Accepting the First Settlement Offer

Insurance companies often make lowball settlement offers, hoping you'll accept quickly. While it might be tempting, especially if you have mounting medical bills, the first offer is usually far less than what you deserve. Consult with an attorney to evaluate the offer before accepting.

7. Posting on Social Media

Be mindful of what you share online. Insurance companies monitor social media accounts for posts that could contradict your injury claims. Even an innocent picture or comment can be taken out of context and used to undermine your case.

8. Not Following Your Doctor's Orders

Skipping medical appointments, failing to follow prescribed treatments, or disregarding your doctor's advice can hurt your case. The defense may argue that you are not as injured as you claim or that you are not taking steps to recover.

9. Delaying Legal Action

California has a statute of limitations for personal injury claims—generally two years from the date of injury. If you wait too long to file your claim, you could lose your right to compensation. Act quickly and consult with an attorney as soon as possible.

10. Not Hiring an Experienced Personal Injury Attorney

Many people try to handle their claims alone, only to find themselves overwhelmed by legal complexities and aggressive insurance tactics. A skilled personal injury attorney can help gather evidence, negotiate with insurers, and ensure you receive fair compensation.

Avoiding these common mistakes can significantly strengthen your personal injury claim. If you've been injured due to someone else's negligence, don't leave your case to chance. Consulting with a knowledgeable personal injury attorney can make all the difference in securing the compensation you deserve.

If you need legal guidance, contact our experienced team today for a free consultation! Give us a call at (619) 672-1741.

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