

20 WAYS YOU CAN RUIN YOUR PERSONAL INJURY CASE



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Personal injury legal cases can be complex and stressful, and if you're not careful, you can make things worse.

Here are 20 mistakes you must avoid if you want to win your case.

Mistake 1. You admitted fault.

Never admit fault in a car accident even if you think you're at fault because subsequent investigation may find you're only partially at fault or not at fault at all.

Mistake 2. You didn't call the police to make a report.

The at-fault person may try to convince you to not call the police, stating that because they admit fault, there is no need. But they can change that story later and you'll have no police record to prove your case. Always call the police.

Mistake 3. You didn't get treated immediately or within a reasonable time.

If you delay getting medical treatment, the insurance company will take the position that you weren't hurt after the crash or you were hurt less than you say you were. They might even argue your injury resulted from some other cause other than the car accident. Seek immediate medical attention.

Mistake 4. You had unreasonable gaps in your treatment.

It's vitally important to follow your doctor's treatment plan after your accident. Having a gap in your treatment could be fatal to your case because the insurance company will argue that your injuries have resolved or that they were minor to begin with.

Mistake 5. You tried to hide your pre-existing injury by telling the doctor you've never had pain before.

Insurance defense attorneys are legally permitted to subpoena your prior records and will know about your previous injuries. At a deposition, they will ask you if you've ever had a pre-existing injury to the same injured body part in hopes that you say "no". Once you say "no", they can now paint you out to be a liar to the jury who then may not believe anything you say.

Mistake 6. You filled out a doctor's intake sheet and said you never had neck or back pain when you did.

Watch out for this mistake. Take the time to think far back if you've ever complained to any healthcare provider about the same body part that's now injured in your case. The insurance company may get these intake sheets and then use it against you at trial.

Mistake 7. You didn't tell the truth.

One of the worst things you can do is not tell the truth when you're asked a question about your case. Even if you think telling the truth may hurt your case, it could be far worse if you get caught in a lie.

Mistake 8. You exaggerated your injuries.

Don't exaggerate your injuries. Juries won't believe you and neither will your own doctor. That will ruin your case. Be truthful at all times.

Mistake 9. You failed to report to your doctor all of your injuries.

Make sure you tell your doctor all of your injuries, even if the injury is minor. That way if it gets worse, the insurance company can't argue that you never mentioned it before.

Mistake 10. You told multiple doctors inconsistent information.

The insurance company is looking for times you said different things to different doctors so they can label you out to be a liar. If you're being treated with a podiatrist for your foot injury, let them know you also have neck pain.

Mistake 11. You gave a recorded statement to the insurance company.

These people are highly trained in getting you to make statements you'll regret. Don't talk to them.

Mistake 12. You signed a medical records release form.

The insurance company may ask you to sign a HIPPA medical authorization so that they can go on a fishing expedition through your past medical records to try to find injuries that are similar to the injuries you're claiming. They are not entitled to this information. Don't sign it.



Scan for more details
on these 20 mistakes.

20 WAYS YOU CAN COMPLETELY RUIN YOUR PERSONAL INJURY CASE, CONT.

Mistake 13. You failed to take photographs of the evidence.

After an accident, if you're able to photograph the evidence, you should. Get pictures of everything such as broken glass in another lane, bruises on your body, etc.

Mistake 14. You posted damaging or contradictory statements on social media.

Insurance companies love reading your posts on social media sites. Posting "I had the best day of my life" on social media is an example of a contradictory statement that can wreck your entire case.

Mistake 15. You posted on social media multiple travel photos during your case.

Don't post vacation photos showing you doing a strenuous activity that you claim your injuries have restricted you from doing such as skiing, swimming or maybe hiking.

Mistake 16. You gave the insurance company too much information including your health insurance information.

Currently, California law allows insurance companies to pay only your health insurance NET charges. You are under no obligation to do the insurance companies homework and provide them your health insurance net charges.

Mistake 17. You blew the applicable statute of limitations.

In California, absent certain exceptions, you have a two-year statute of limitation to file a lawsuit against the at-fault driver. If you delay beyond two years, you may be time-barred and forever lose your rights to bring a claim.

Mistake 18. You failed to mention previous accidents.

Insurance companies all share information about who's been in auto accidents that you were involved in in the past, so if you're asked if you've been in a previous accident, tell the truth. Again, don't look like a liar.

Mistake 19. You made inconsistent statements.

The lawyer for the insurance company will look for any inconsistencies you made at every stage and point those out to a jury and argue that you weren't being truthful because your statements were inconsistent.

Mistake 20. You waited too long to hire an attorney.

Insurance companies are not in business to pay you compensation; their goal is to maximize profits. An experienced personal injury attorney is in a better position to evaluate, handle and negotiate your case on your behalf. In many instances, certain laws apply when you hire a lawyer that allow you to substantially reduce your medical bills and save you money.

DON'T MAKE YOUR OWN MISTAKES. TAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS RECOVERY.

If you're in the San Diego area...

Schedule a FREE CONSULTATION and get answers to...

1. Do you have a case?
2. What is your case is worth?
3. Why you should be talking to an attorney even if you think you don't need one.
4. Learn the tricks insurance companies use to get out of paying you what your case is really worth, and more.

**Delays can only hurt your case.
Pick up the phone and call today!**



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