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SERIES: Part 1: What to Expect With Your Personal Injury Claim



Part 1 of a 3-part series.

Many people who come into our office have never met with an attorney before. It is our job to successfully guide our clients step-by-step through the legal process. For those who don't know what to expect when you walk through our doors, I will explain the process in this series. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get into contact with us at 312-384-1920.

Preparing to Meet

You will need to call our office to schedule an appointment to meet with us so that we may identify the merits of your case. When you meet with me, I will ask you a series of questions about your potential case. I will need to know the details of the incident. You should bring in as much information as possible including photographs, medical records, bills, police reports, insurance coverage information, reports from doctors regarding diagnosis and prognosis, witnesses' contact info, etc.



Call us at 800-693-1529!



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We will discuss the ways your life has been affected by your injury and go through a timeline of the events that took place. The more information I have, the better I can assist you. You should also prepare a list of questions and concerns you want to discuss with me. We will go over a lot of information in our meeting, and you are encouraged to take notes.

Initial Investigation

If it is determined that we will proceed with your case, we will start our in-depth investigation process. DLG will start gathering all of the records that pertain to the liability aspect of your case - accident reports, statements that show liability, etc. We will identify and research unique legal principles that apply to your case. We will find and interview witnesses, and analyze the most effective way to present your claim.

Medical Treatment

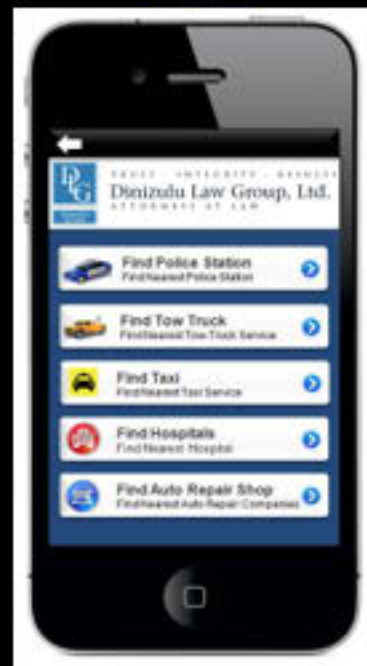
During this phase, it is very important to follow your doctor's advice and do what she/he recommends. It is also important to keep a record of all of your treatments.

Moreover, during this phase, our staff will make sure that all of your medical bills and records are ordered and received. This process can take several months depending on the complexity of your care and treatment. We will need you to finalize all of your treatment before we start your demand (see below). It is important to make sure all of your injuries have been identified and that none of your injuries are likely to worsen. If your condition worsens after the case is settled, there is nothing that can be done to reopen your case. We won't start evaluating fair compensation of the case until your treatment has been completed. As such, you are expected to keep us updated as to your treatment progress and to inform us when you are discharged from your physicians' care.

If you don't have medical insurance, there are doctors and facilities that are willing to provide care pursuant to a medical lien. A medical lien is utilized when a medical care provider is willing to delay payment of medical bills until the conclusion of your case. When the case is settled, the medical bills will be paid at that time.



[Click here to download our mobile accident app!](#)



Demand

After you have completed all of your medical treatment, we will submit a demand for settlement to the insurance company. We will put this information together in a manner in which the insurance company will recognize the value of your case.

In our demand package, we will outline the facts that are determined through our investigation and show the legal basis for compensating you for the injuries under the facts. The insurance company will have all the evidence that we think is relevant, such as medical bills and records, case law, wage loss support, photos, witness statements, maps, surveillance footage, and other important evidence.

We will also include in the package an analysis of similar cases to yours. We will look at facts that arise in your case that apply to the law. This will help us prove to the insurance company how severely the incident has affected your life. Our goal is to make sure the insurance company rewards you fairly. By providing a comprehensive settlement demand package, it gives the insurance company a number of reasons for settling the claim immediately and fairly rather than going to court.

Once we get a response from the insurance company, we will discuss it thoroughly with you and advise you on the next steps that should be taken. We will determine the best plan of action together and implement that road map. If we can't come to a reasonable agreement for settlement or if a settlement isn't forthcoming, we will discuss filing a formal complaint and whether beginning the litigation process is right for you.

Some Things to Keep in Mind

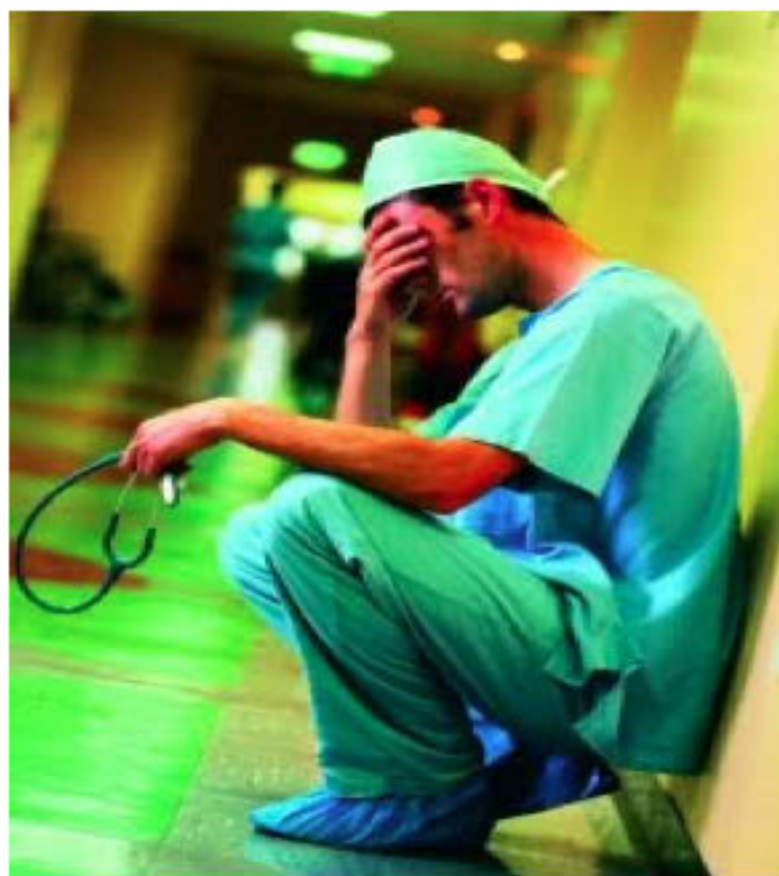
- Do not speak with anyone about your case, especially representatives from the insurance company or other party.
- Keep notes and records of medical treatments you are receiving.
- Do everything your doctor tells you to.

Throughout these processes, we will guide you through every step of the way. When you entrust your case to DLG, you can be assured that it is in the hands of caring and seasoned experts.

Click the play button above, or click [here](#) to learn more about us. If you or a loved one needs someone to relentlessly fight for their rights, call us at 312-384-1920.

Our next article of the series will feature the process of filing a lawsuit.

15% of All Medical Cases are Misdiagnosed



Jane Doe* visited her doctor's office complaining of headaches and nasal discharge.

Neither of the practice's two doctors were available, so Doe was seen by a new doctor, Dr. Jones. She recommended her to undergo additional testing and prescribed steroids. She did not prescribe an antibiotic.

According to the standard of care, steroids without an antibiotic would mask the sinus infection and exacerbate it.

Five days later, Doe started exhibiting stroke-like symptoms, including facial drooping and disorientation. She went to the emergency room and had a CT scan, which revealed a brain abscess. She was flown to a hospital where she had to undergo emergency brain surgery. She was hospitalized for more than two months, was on a ventilator after having respiratory failure, had additional brain surgery and underwent rehabilitation to learn how to walk again.

She continues to have what is considered a frontal lobe injury. She is unable to regulate her emotions and has difficulty with complex cognitive function.

According to the American Journal of Medicine, 15% of all medical cases are misdiagnosed. In a study by the American Medical Association, 50,000 misdiagnosis cases occur a year in the United States. According to Dr. Eric Thomas, one of the authors of the study, pneumonia, congestive heart failure, urinary tract infections, kidney failure and cancer were the diagnoses that were missed most often by primary care providers. **Eighty-five percent of all misdiagnosis resulted in considerable harm or death for patients.**

Some of the reasons for misdiagnosis include physicians not ordering the right tests or misinterpreting test results, said Dr. Thomas. He also attributed problems with not obtaining all of the information from the patient and physicians not asking the correct questions or patients not providing information. He added that physicians' time constraints and difficulties accessing information in electronic health records could be additional reasons for misdiagnosis. The most important factor, however, is the complexity of a patients' history.

There are three types of misdiagnosis: delayed diagnosis, inaccurate diagnosis, and failure to diagnosis.

A delayed diagnosis occurs when a doctor correctly determines a patient's condition, but only after a significant amount of time has passed. A delayed diagnosis can threaten a patient's outcome and put the patient at risk of needing additional treatment.

Failure to diagnosis happens when a doctor mistakenly concludes a patient who has a serious illness, disease, or injury is not suffering from any condition requiring treatment. The patient goes on with his or her life while the condition worsens, ultimately requiring more aggressive and extensive treatment and a prolonged recovery period. In the worst cases, patients die from lack of prompt treatment after a missed diagnosis.

In the case of a wrong diagnosis, a doctor concludes a patient has a particular condition when in fact the patient has a different problem. That means the treatment that follows is wrong, too, and the patient's real condition goes untreated. Like a missed diagnosis, the patient may suffer a delayed recovery and require greater treatment than would have been necessary if the condition were correctly diagnosed the first time.

A misdiagnosis can cause life-altering consequences. It can result in patients being exposed to treatments for issues they don't have, while the patient's true diagnosis remains untreated.

As a tip to patients receiving care from health providers, one way to ensure that you are receiving the best care that you need is to make sure that you discuss all of your symptoms with your doctor, as well as your past illnesses. You should ask your doctor about all of the possibilities your symptoms could be attributed to. Getting a second opinion, researching any information your doctor provides to you, and sharing your findings with your physician will decrease your chances of being misdiagnosed.

If you or a loved one feel like you've been misdiagnosed that has caused you great harm, call our office to sit down with our team of experts to determine if you have a claim for medical malpractice.

**According to a report from the Post-Gazette. Names have been changed.*

Untested Rape Kits Discovered...Again



According to the Chicago Tribune, fifty-one rape kits spanning over 30 years were recently found in the city of Robbins untested. The Cook County Sheriff's office in Robbins is now working to process those rape kits, which were never sent by Robbins police investigators for analysis between 1986 to 2011.

The Dinizulu Law Group currently has a class action lawsuit against the city of Harvey for over 200 rape kits that went untested over a 15 year period.

You can read more about the lawsuit that we filed [here](#).

Do you think there is a systematic problem in law enforcement in failing to process rape claims with as much fervor as other crimes?

We would like to know your opinion. Tell us what you think on our [Facebook page](#).

DLG is Hiring Law Clerks



The Dinizulu Law Group is accepting applications for law clerks.

Please e-mail Melissa Soria atsoria@dinizululawgroup.com for details about the position and how to apply.

We Love Referrals!



If you know a relative or a friend who has been injured, tell them about us.

We are here to advocate for fair and equitable compensation for victims. We appreciate the trust you have placed in us.