



*Special news and
information for current
Davis Law Group
clients.*

Client Advisory

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR ALL CURRENT CLIENTS: Importance of Photographic & Video Evidence

For personal injury victims, photos are vivid evidence of what you or your loved ones have experienced. Although Lady Justice is frequently pictured as blindfolded, photographic and video evidence is extremely valuable in preparing a personal injury case for settlement or trial. As the saying goes, “a picture is worth a thousand words.” Visual material can be superior to the spoken word for communicating ideas, information, or descriptions.

If you have not already done so please remember to send relevant photographs to the paralegal that is currently handling administrative details in your case.

- **Personal Photos** - Personal photos of the accident victim(s) prior to the accident can be helpful. Pictures with family members, celebrations, participating in activities, hobbies, etc.
- **Accident Photos** - Photos of the accident scene, property (vehicle) damage, etc.
- **Injury Photos** – Any pictures of injuries, hospital bed photos, etc. If there is a cast, brace or other medical device (s) please include it in some of the photographs. Always take one view of the injured person’s whole body (clothed) in order to identify the injured person. Then zoom in for close-up shots of all bruises, broken limbs, casts, stitches, surgical sites, scars, etc. Shots should be taken from more than one angle, right and left, since some scars wash out at a direct angle. **NOTE:** Don’t forget to save any braces, pins, casts, etc.

When taking photos in the future please remember: no smiling (this is legal photography not a portrait), no jewelry and/or makeup please.

Stop Your Medical Bills From Going To Collections

If you find it difficult to pay your injury-related medical bills, let us know immediately. We can inquire with your medical provider about the possibility of placing a lien on your account. Some, but not all, medical providers will agree to a lien. Under this type of agreement your medical provider will NOT send your bills to a collection agency, if you agree to pay your medical bills as soon as your injury claim is settled.

NOTE: You should send copies of collection notices to the paralegal assigned to your case as soon as you get them so we can act quickly.

Paralegal / Staff Changes At Davis Law Group: Building The Paralegal A-Team

Attorney Chris Davis looks at his paralegal legal team similar to the way Coach Pete Carroll of the Seattle Seahawks looks at his team. Like Carroll, Davis wants to find top performers who are results-oriented team players. Staff changes at **Davis Law Group** are just like cutting, trading or acquiring players for a professional sports club—it’s all about creating a great team. From time-to-time we have had to replace paralegals who cannot meet your high standards and/or paralegals that realize that they are not cut out for the team quickly leave on their own.

Over the course of the last year there may have been a number of changes to our paralegal team. We know that finding out that the paralegal assigned to your case has changed may initially cause you a little bit of stress. But you need to know that these kinds of staffing changes are designed to improve the quality of the legal services that we provide our clients and therefore should be a positive experience.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

For clients receiving medical treatment.

The Importance of Medical Evidence in Personal Injury Claims

When a person makes a personal injury claim, their medical treatment is an important foundation to support the strength of the case. The medical treatment records help the attorney prove how serious, severe and/or debilitating the injuries have been for that person. Conversely, the medical records can also help the insurance company or defense attorney minimize your injuries and show how the patient failed to follow the doctor's treatment recommendations.

We would like to remind you to attend all of your medical appointments; follow your doctor's instructions; and keep our office informed of changes in your care. For more information on the importance of medical evidence in your personal injury claim click the following link and read a full report on the subject.

http://www.injurytriallawyer.com/library/The_Importance_of_Medical_Evidence_In_Personal_Injury_Cases.pdf

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

For clients in settlement demand phase.

It Can Take A Long Time To Get Copies of Your Medical Records and Bills

Now that you are finished with your medical treatment we can begin working on your settlement demand. In most cases **Davis Law Group** needs *complete* copies of all medical records and bills in order to properly prepare your settlement demand.

Depending on the number of treatment providers you have seen during your medical treatment, it can take weeks or months to obtain copies of all of your medical records and bills. Medical offices and hospitals' records departments receive hundreds of request for records each day. If the provider does not store the records on site, then we may have to wait even longer to receive records. And on or near national holidays there are additional delays. Medical records offices are chronically understaffed and disorganized.

Please be patient and understanding while we try to gather your medical records and bills.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

For clients in litigation / awaiting trial.

The Wheels of Justice Move Slowly

When a case must be litigated there is little chance for a speedy or quick recovery. Many people are quick to blame their lawyer when they can do little to speed up the process.

If a lawsuit is filed in your case the court sets your trial date which may be eighteen months to two years in the future. Although criminals receive a 'speedy trial,' civil cases take much longer to get in front of a judge and jury.

Another factor influencing the length of the litigation process is the fact that many insurance defense lawyers get paid by the hour. Obviously, the longer the case drags out, the more money they make. The reality is that most do not focus on the case to the extent they should until a trial date is staring them in the face.

But this long wait time allows us plenty of time to obtain witness statements, take depositions and get the expert opinion of physicians, engineers, or safety experts if they are needed.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

For clients with cases in negotiation.

Frustrated With The Negotiation Phase?

Remember That Patience Pays Off

You must resist the temptation to rush the negotiation process.

Quick settlements for a personal injury case are not usually in the client's best interest. Tough economic times cause many clients to want to settle (give up) too early for an amount that isn't fair compensation for their injuries. Insurance companies know that injury victims that are in a rush may settle for pennies on the dollar. **Try to be patient and keep a good attitude during the negotiation phase of your case. Be willing to wait in order to obtain the full amount your injury claim is worth.** Doing so may help when it comes to paying off your accident-related medical bills and other debts.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

For clients with settled cases awaiting subrogation.

Once your case is settled, **Davis Law Group** handles two important tasks before giving you your final settlement check.

1-) We negotiate with your medical providers in an effort to reduce the amount of your outstanding medical bills or liens—so you don't have to pay the full amount. 2-) We handle the subrogation process for you.

Negotiating down your bills/liens and managing the subrogation process can take weeks or months. So as in all other parts of the personal injury claim process, please try to be patient. The result can be more money for you.

What is subrogation?

When you file a claim with your insurer, the company can try to recover its costs from the person responsible for your injury or property damage. This is called subrogation. For example: Your medical insurance company pays your doctor's bills following an auto accident that someone else caused.

SPECIAL WARNING FOR ALL CURRENT CLIENTS

WARNING: What is in your Facebook profile, webpage, or blog site could damage your personal injury claim and cost you money.

Do **not** post information (posts, pictures, videos, etc.) about your accident, injuries, medical treatment or physical activities on social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc., for the duration of your legal claim. Insurance company investigators often conduct online surveillance of an accident victim using these social media websites. Insurance companies look at this public information to:

- confirm or disprove the severity of a person's injuries;
- confirm or disprove ability to resume normal activities and sports;
- confirm or disprove ability to work;
- confirm or disprove ability to interact normally with family members, etc.

Information that you post in blogs, video and photo sharing sites, and social networking profiles can make or break your personal injury case.

It is better to be safe than sorry. It is in your best interest to stop using social media websites of any kind during the duration of your case. **You need to make all of our social media accounts private.**