

Personal Injury Resource Guide

created by
Bloom Legal

{ Personal Injury Resource Guide }
by Bloom Legal

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|---------|
| <i>Do I Need a Personal Injury Attorney?</i> | 3 |
| <i>Making Sense of Contingency Fees</i> | 5 |
| <i>How To Find the Right Personal Injury Attorney</i> | 6 |
| <i>Questions To Ask a Personal Injury Attorney</i> | 7 |
| <i>Injury Resources In New Orleans</i> | 8 |

Do I Need a Personal Injury Attorney?

Some people may try to take on an injury case themselves. They might not want to pay attorney fees, or may think that they have a simple, open and shut case. **However, by hiring an attorney for your personal injury case, you significantly increase your chances of receiving a higher settlement, even after paying your attorney.**

In matters of personal injury, it's important to make sure you get the full compensation you deserve the first time around. Actually, you only get the one chance, since one is not legally entitled to further compensation for an injury after accepting an initial settlement.

Once a settlement is agreed upon, further compensation cannot be sought for the same claim. That's why it's so important to get your settlement right the first time around.

A personal injury lawyer, who has handled these types of cases before, will provide invaluable insight and experience in building your case. They can help you:

- Collect evidence and hire investigators
 - Deal with the insurance company
 - Calculate your losses and damages
 - Construct a complete and thorough claim
 - Negotiate a settlement and deal with the insurance companies
 - If necessary, take the defendant to trial, representing on your behalf and presenting a strategic, winning argument
-

It is true that anyone could attempt to handle all of the above on their own. But personal injury cases are often complex, and the experience of a professional who has handled this type of work before can have a big impact on the outcome. For example, insurance companies have a number of different strategies for minimizing the settlement they pay out in injury cases. **Insurance companies know that once a settlement is accepted, it cannot be changed, so they will often lowball to save money.**

An experienced personal injury attorney will know how to deal with the insurance companies, and navigate their strategies to ensure you get the full compensation you deserve. Meanwhile, you will be able to focus on what's most important after an injury—getting healthy. Injuries can leave you and your family struggling—likely facing unexpected expenses and the potential of missing work. Having an attorney handling your case allows you to focus on getting back on your feet, back to work, and taking care of your family and livelihood.

There's one other big reason why people hire a personal injury attorney.



What Is a Contingency Fee?

Another reason many people hire a personal injury attorney is purely financial. You've probably heard the promise that many personal injury lawyers love to make—"We don't get paid unless you do!"

This type of guarantee is what's known as a **contingency contract**. In short, under this agreement, the lawyer fronts all the expenses until after a settlement is reached. In many instances, this may be the only way many people are able to afford the treatment and repairs they need while taking on a big insurance company at the same time.

Contingency fee contracts allow injured individuals to pay for medical treatment, vehicle repairs, and more.

Injuries are expensive. You will likely accrue medical bills, and may need to pay for repairs to your vehicle or property. You may be forced to miss work and the quality of your life could be affected. These are some of the reasons that the law protects individuals who have been wrongly injured.

But injury settlements can take months or even years to settle. That's where **contingency fee contracts** come in. They allow people of all income levels to receive the treatment they deserve, maintain their quality of life, and hire a lawyer to pursue a claim—all without paying out of pocket.

How to Find the Right Personal Injury Attorney

If you have been injured and are seeking legal representation, there is no shortage of options available to you. One doesn't have to look further than the commercial breaks between public news broadcasts, or the billboards lining a lonely stretch of interstate, to get acquainted with the plethora of lawyers offering injury services.

So how do you pick the right one for you? First and foremost, **a personal injury attorney should be someone you can trust and be comfortable with.** They will be your representative and confidant through a difficult time in your life, so it's important that you build a good relationship. You will also want someone that is easy to get in touch with when you need it, a good communicator and fast responder.

Many law firms offer **free consultations.** This is a great opportunity to get to know the attorney and to see if they are a good fit to take on your case. You should use the consultation to explain your situation to the attorney, and to ask them questions as well.

There are a number of useful questions you can ask an attorney during a first meeting to try to determine if they're someone you want to work with. We outline some of those below. However, the most important thing is determining whether this is someone who genuinely wants to help you—and is equipped to do so.

Though the bigger firms have the name recognition, these are large-scale operations, and working with them may mean dealing with many different lawyers, secretaries, and law clerks throughout your case. Smaller firms, on the other hand, can often offer a more

personal touch, and will treat you and your case with the genuine and unique care it requires.

Of course, you should also make sure, the personal injury firm is experienced, with a proven record of success in cases like yours.

Questions To Ask a Personal Injury Attorney

Here are some questions to ask a lawyer during your first consultation:

- How long have you been practicing law?
- Have you dealt with cases like mine before?
- If so, what was the outcome of those cases?
- How do you keep in touch with your clients?
- Do you have a preferred method of contact?
- If I contact you how long should I expect to wait before I hear back from you?

It's also important to discuss pricing and fees up front. Ensure that you and your lawyer will be on the same page should you decide to work together. Ask questions like:

- How much do you normally charge for a case like this?
- Do you offer a contingency fee contract?
- Do you charge by the hour or a flat rate?
- Do you offer payment plans?



Injury Resources In Greater New Orleans

Orthopedics

Lance Estrada

(504) 206-2193
3434 Prytaia St Suite 430, New
Orleans, LA 70115

Felix Henry Savoie

(504) 988-8476
202 Janet Yulman Way, New
Orleans, LA 70118

Chiropractors

Marc Behar

(504) 361-3333
3140 Garden Oaks Dr, New
Orleans, LA 70114

Craig Ledet

(504) 861-8000
8422 Oak Street, New Orleans,
LA 70118

Neurosurgeon

Najeeb Thomas

(504) 889-7200
3798 Veterans Memorial Blvd.
#200, Metairie, LA 70002

Dermatologist

Patricia Hickham

(504) 962-7771

4141 Bienville Street #108, New
Orleans, LA 70119

Rehabilitation

**Touro Rehabilitation
Center**

(504) 897-7011

1401 Foucher St., New Orleans,
LA 70115

Pain Management

Patrick Waring

(504) 455-2225

701 Metairie Rd. Unit 2A-310,
Metairie, LA 70005

Auto Body Shop

A Vargas Body Shop

(504) 891-2606

3317 Magazine St., New
Orleans, LA 70115

**Claude Bean's Body
Shop Inc.**

(504) 945-9726

2110 Poland Ave., New Orleans,
LA 70117

Investigator

Kevin Fucich

(504) 52-7676

620B Tchoupitoulas, New
Orleans, LA 70130

{ Personal Injury
Handbook }
by Bloom Legal

Bloom Legal LLC
839 St. Charles Ave
New Orleans, LA 70130
(504) 599-9997
bloomlegal.com
