

December 2008

Dear Client,

In an effort to educate our clients on the legal process, we will be sending you periodic letters. As many of you know, a personal injury or wrongful death lawsuit is a lengthy process, so we will use the letters as a means to regularly connect with you. We hope you find the information both relevant and helpful.

We strive to ensure our clients receive justice and compensation equal to the harm caused by the negligence or misconduct of the defendants. Since this is our first letter, we will review the steps we must take to achieve this objective.

1. **Initial Interview and Investigation**-During the initial interview(s), we will gather information about your case. We then conduct a thorough investigation to determine if we can help. If we decide to go forward with your case, we begin to prepare the necessary court documents.
2. **File and Serve the Complaint**- We file the complaint on behalf of you, the plaintiff, in court. After it is filed, the sheriff serves the defendant a copy and we send you a copy. Once the defendant is served, they typically send the complaint to their lawyers and insurance companies. This process usually takes between 30-60 days.
3. **Discovery**- Discovery is the process of exchanging written questions and documents between the plaintiff and defendant. When the defendants' attorneys serve you with questions, we work with you to answer them and help you to produce the requested materials.

Depositions also take place during discovery. In a deposition, each side asks the other side questions under oath in front of a court reporter. Before you are deposed, we make sure you are prepared and comfortable.

4. **Settlement Negotiations**- Settlement can occur at any point in the process. Settlement takes place when we make a settlement demand and the defense answers with an offer. We do not make any demands without consulting you and we tell you about any offers made. Sometimes we use a judge or professional mediator to try to resolve a case. Although we remain open to any reasonable settlement offer, we continue to prepare your case as if it is going to trial.
5. **Trial**- If no settlement is reached, there will be a trial. Both sides will present witnesses and evidence to a jury who will decide a verdict based upon the arguments heard.

The legal process is long and complex. Throughout this process, we are constantly working to bring justice to you and hold all wrongdoers accountable. We are committed to achieving the best possible results for you in the shortest amount of time, while ensuring that you receive justice and fair compensation.

Please feel free to call or email us anytime with questions regarding your case.

Warmest regards,



Steven M. Levin and John J. Perconti