

Hiring an Attorney 101: Your Claim Step-by-Step

There are few things in life that can be expedited and still have a successful outcome. Unfortunately, a personal injury claim isn't one of them. After retaining a board certified civil trial attorney, there is a process to your personal injury case that must be followed to obtain the maximum compensation on your behalf and to abide by the laws set forth in your state.

After being injured in an accident it's difficult to understand what happens next. Let's go step-by-step and look the most important things you need to know after you retain a personal injury attorney.

Exceeding the statute of limitations could mean forfeiture of compensation

A major factor in filing your claim is the **statute of limitations**. No matter injury or wrongful death, if you've exceeded the statute of limitations set forth by the state in which you reside, your attorney cannot obtain any compensation for your injury or loss.

A board certified civil trial attorney: experience you can trust

The process required to obtain compensation or damages for most personal injury claims are similar, but not entirely the same. For this reason, it's important to retain an experienced board certified civil trial attorney to navigate your case. They will be the one to best advise you of your rights and of any nuances within your specific case.

In [Hiring an Attorney 101: The Importance of "Board Certified"](#), we looked at why a board certified civil trial attorney was of utmost importance. In this article we'll look at what happens after you retain counsel and investigate the process a personal injury case must go through before you can be compensated for your pain and injury.

After retaining board certified counsel: here comes the paperwork!

The only thing worse than paperwork is trying to navigate the legal system on your own. This is something you should never, ever do. A board certified civil trial attorney can not only make the process less stressful but retaining experienced counsel means they're able to obtain the most compensation for your injury or wrongful death of a loved one.

"Fact-finding" is something your attorney will explain to you based on your specific case, however, it's a part and parcel of "discovery": the process in which opposing sides in a lawsuit obtain information on one another and establish the facts of the case.

Discovery and fact-finding, an important but sometimes lengthy step

This process can take time and many factors will go into how long the "discovery" process of your individual case will take. The more paperwork involved, the longer the process.

Some of the things exchanged between the opposing parties during this process include but are not limited to:

- Accident reports and witness statements from the time the injury initially occurred
- Hospital and medical records to document proof of the injuries sustained
- Statements made to law enforcement after your accident (i.e. police reports)
- Any photographs taken (i.e. cell phone photo or video) at the scene of the accident where your injury occurred

Your attorney will know what he or she needs and will obtain those documents on your behalf. It's important to heed any advice from your attorney and provide any information they may request regarding your case in a timely manner. As mentioned, the statute of limitations cannot be exceeded.

Resolution before trial: not everything goes to court

Many cases are resolved before they're ever heard by a judge. This is called *reaching a settlement* and can be beneficial because it saves time and is less costly financially than going to trial.

Personal injury lawsuits often settle before going in front of a judge and jury, but you need a board certified civil trial attorney to advise you on the specifics of whether that is possible. Your attorney should prioritize your best interests above all else.

Shaked Law Firm's board certified civil trial attorneys work for you

Each case is unique and only an experienced attorney will know that's best for you. That's why **Shaked Law Firm** is the personal injury law firm of choice in South Florida. Our attorneys have years of experience in what it takes to obtain the compensation you deserve.

Whether you've been in an auto accident or you've lost a loved one to negligent security, we provide a private, stress free atmosphere in which to discuss the details of your case.

Contacting us for your complimentary consultation is the first step. There's no obligation. Call us today: (877) 529-0080.

