



# Roadmap for a Personal Injury Case

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Every case is unique! But here's a guide, so you know what to expect.

## 1. Treatment for Injury

- A. Get all necessary medical treatment. Your #1 priority should be getting better!
- B. During this time period, we'll be investigating your case (gathering evidence, interviewing witnesses, collecting medical records and bills).

## 2. Intitial Demand for Settlement

- A. We can't move forward until you've completed treatment and/or have reached a point of "maximum medical improvement" (when your condition can't be improved any further).
- B. At that point, we'll draft a letter to the other side and/or insurance company, setting forth our case and attempting to settle the case. We'll need your help and will reach out to you!

## 3. Settlement Negotiations

- A. After the other side gets our demand, the case can settle at any time.
- B. If we aren't able to reach an agreement, we'll file a lawsuit. In Virginia, typically the suit must be filed within two years of the injury. In DC, it's three years.

## 4. Lawsuit is Filed – Defendant(s) are served and file a response.

## 5. Discovery Phase

- A. Parties exchange documents and written answers to questions.
- B. Parties and witnesses are examined under oath in depositions.
- C. Parties disclose their "expert" witnesses (usually, doctors or industry experts).

## 6. Mediation

At any point in the case, the parties may come together for a day and, with the help of a retired judge, attempt to resolve the case.

## 7. Trial – A jury decides the case and renders a verdict.

## 8. Appeal

If either side thinks the judge made serious errors at trial, they can ask a higher court to review the case.

## 9. Ownership of the Case

This is your case, and you make the decisions. We have two roles:

- We are your advocates—we represent you and will strongly advocate for your best interests throughout.
- We are your counselors—we candidly and clearly keep you informed about the progress of the case and of positive and negative developments.