



DTLA MONTHLY

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How Long Does It Take to Settle a Car Accident Case?

AFTER BEING INVOLVED IN A CAR ACCIDENT, you may wish to file a claim with the responsible driver's insurance company to be compensated for your damages. There are numerous factors that determine how long you will have to wait before you see a settlement.

For one, the difference between being injured and only your car sustaining damage can drastically change the timeframe for a settlement. A mechanic can provide you with an estimate a few days after the accident, at which point you can provide that bill to the insurance company, as well as a request for lost wages if you were impeded from going to work. This process may take no more than a few weeks, given that insurance companies usually evaluate claims for about three weeks before making an offer.

The reason many claims take long is due to the presence of injuries. For one, you won't be able to file a claim seeking compensation for medical expenses and non-economic damages until you have reached maximum medical improvement, which can be weeks or months after the accident. If you required extensive hospitalization and ensuing physical therapy, you may not be able to submit a claim for close to a year after the incident.

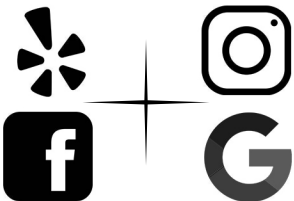
Once you submit the claim and settlement demand package, the insurance company will analyze your request and determine the next course of action. This may also take around 60 days if you have an attentive lawyer who is staying on top of your claim.

Many insurance agents dispute the extent of your injuries and will deny your claim; they will say that your damages were caused elsewhere or that the amount you are requesting is too excessive.

After some time, the agent will make an offer, at which point you can choose to accept it or reject it. As negotiations proceed, insurance agents may purposely take longer and longer between each offer in an effort to force you to accept out of irritation that the issue has not been resolved.

If you do not receive a fair offer from the insurance agency, your lawyer may suggest taking the claim to court. Depending on the number of witnesses who are called to testify, the trial may take a few more days.

In sum, if you intend to pursue compensation for damaged property, your claim may be settled in under half a year, but if you suffer physical injuries in the crash, the timeframe can take anywhere between six months and three years. ♦ ♦ ♦



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Chronic Pain After an Accident?

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED A TRAUMATIC INJURY as a result of a personal injury accident? If you were injured in the workplace, in a car accident, or in a truck accident, you might have experienced a series of painful injuries. In many cases of personal injury accidents, injured victims see an improvement or complete disappearance of their pain within three months of their accident. Unfortunately, many traumatic injuries result in chronic pain syndrome.

Chronic pain syndrome sprouts from an acute injury — such as an injury arising from a personal injury accident. If the pain does not subside within three to six months, the pain is considered chronic. Many of the common injuries sustained as a result of slip and fall accidents, workplace accidents, bicycle accidents, pedestrian accidents, truck accidents, and motorcycle accidents, for example, can lead to chronic pain syndrome. Many of these personal injury accidents can lead to the following injuries, which can, in turn, lead to chronic pain syndrome: head injuries, traumatic brain injuries, back injuries, neck injuries, shoulder injuries, hip injuries, knee injuries, nerve damage, muscle damage, and broken bones, for example. Even if the injuries listed above are addressed with surgery and thorough treatment, victims can continue experiencing debilitating pain.

If you were left suffering chronic pain syndrome as a result of a personal injury accident, the most obvious symptom is constant, severe pain. However, chronic pain syndrome can lead to many other symptoms that can quickly affect your lifestyle. Chronic pain syndrome could lead to anxiety, panic, irritability, depression, fatigue, problems with sleep, substance abuse, and suicidal thoughts, for example. These severe symptoms can quickly interfere with your personal and professional life and relationships.

So, what should you do if you are suffering chronic pain syndrome after a traumatic injury caused by the negligent and reckless actions of a party? If the negligent actions of a party resulted in the injuries that caused your chronic pain, you might have the right to file a lawsuit and receive compensation for your chronic pain. You might be compensated for the medical expenses, lost wages, pain and suffering, and punitive damages, for example. To become eligible to receive compensation for your chronic pain, you must first file a claim against the party liable for your injuries.

Chronic pain syndrome is often misunderstood and disregarded by those who have never experienced constant debilitating pain. Our attorneys understand the complexity of chronic pain syndrome; let us help you file a claim against the party that negligently caused your personal injury accident which subsequently caused your chronic pain syndrome. Contact us as soon as possible for a free consultation or free second opinion today. ♦ ♦ ♦

INTERVIEW with our CLIENT

I contacted Downtown LA Law Group because of a violent car collision I had with Lyft. A reckless driver rammed into me and it really messed up my back. The accident was high-speed on the freeway.

I contacted downtown la law group, and my lawyer was Sal Hendizadeh. He definitely did everything in his power to make sure I was taken care of; he was very attentive. He took care of me. My back was really hurt. Sal got me the chiropractor, got me into the necessary surgeries, and at the end of the day he was able to get me a great compensation. So I definitely recommend the downtown law. ♦ ♦ ♦



DTLA Commercial Coming in May



Uber / Lyft Accident

Steps to Take

as a Passenger

WHEN YOU TAKE A RIDE IN AN UBER, Lyft, or other ridesharing service car, you are owed a duty of care by the company with which you took the ride. This means that the company must do everything in their power to ensure the safety and health of their customers. So when you get in to an Uber, Uber must ensure that no harm falls upon you while you are in their care — from the time you step in one of their vehicles to the time you step out. Accidents occur every single day, and so while Uber drivers play it safe when transporting you from point A to B, an accident is all but inevitable.

What are passengers to do in the event of an accident? We break down what passengers must do after they are involved in an Uber accident.

What to Do After an Uber Car Accident

Whenever you get into an accident, safety is the biggest concern. If you are uninjured after the accident, here are the steps you need to take after an Uber accident.

1) Ensure Everyone's Safety — If you are uninjured, one of the first things you need to do is make sure that everyone is okay. If there are any injuries, administer first aid when possible and necessary.

2) Call 9-1-1 — If there are any injuries, you have to call 9-1-1 and paramedics so that they are treated as soon as possible. Even if there are no injuries, you still have to call the police so they can create a police report of the Uber accident.

3) Collect Information — If you are not seriously injured and have the capacity of doing so, collect as much useful information as possible. This includes the Uber driver's name, driver's license, and plate numbers, as well as the information from any other cars that were involved in the accident.

4) Go to the Doctor's — It is important that you visit a doctor after your accident. Health issues can take hours, days, or even weeks to arise.

A doctor can tell you if there's anything wrong with your body before you cognitively become aware of the injury.

In addition to the health benefits, the sooner you get checked by a medical professional, the better it will work for your case. You can get much higher compensation by simply visiting a doctor.

5) Contact an Uber Attorney — Uber's adjusters and insurance agents will attempt to deny liability and deny coverage. When you get into an accident, it is imperative that you contact our expert attorneys. They will deal with their agents so that you do not have to worry, and can focus on your recovery.

We have expert attorneys that have much experience with Uber accidents. We offer free legal consultation and the zero-fee guarantee. Contact our law firm today if you were involved in an Uber or Lyft accident. ♦ ♦ ♦

Ask an Attorney

with Igor Fradkin, Esq. Attorney at Law

Q: I was a passenger in an Uber that was involved in an accident. How should I proceed?

A: First of all, if you were injured you should definitely contact 911. Uber drivers have a duty of care, and Uber themselves have a duty of care to the passenger because of their providing a service to you. They carry a \$1 million policy that you have access to if you need it for your medical bills. Contact an attorney at Downtown LA Law Group for help because, you know, going through the insurance companies — insurance companies don't like to pay out and they don't take care of you. Contact an attorney here, they'll take care of you.



Q: I am a driver for Uber and they are denying liability after an accident. What are my rights?

A: Well if you are an Uber driver in an accident, Uber will very likely deny liability and they will force you to prove to Uber that you are not liable. The drivers have access to different levels of coverage depending on whether the app was on, whether they were on their way to pick up a passenger, or already had a passenger in the vehicle. The attorneys at Downtown LA Law Group offer free legal consultations; we have the resources and capabilities to stand up to Uber's insurance company. Give us a call and let us do the hard work for you. You won't regret it. ♦ ♦ ♦

Most Recent 2018 Settlements

\$1,000,000

CASE: HOTEL INJURY CASE

Falling merchandise that required neck surgery

\$600,000

CASE: ASSAULT AND BATTERY

Security guard for a nightclub used unnecessary force against our client. Our client suffered facial injuries and a broken nose.

\$500,000

CASE: REAR END CAR ACCIDENT

Car collided into the back of our client forcing them into the car ahead. Client suffered back and neck injuries.

Editor in chief: Alana De Mendez



Sal Hendizadeh—Lead Attorney



Farid Yaghoubti—Lead Attorney



Daniel Azizi—Lead Attorney