

LAWSUIT FILED

Filing a lawsuit is a big decision. I will explain to you the pros and cons of such a decision. I will never file a lawsuit without seeking your permission.

In some cases, you have the choice to file in federal or state court. You may have an option regarding the county or city in which you can file. Determining where to file your lawsuit involves careful legal analysis.

Once the lawsuit is filed, the parties to the lawsuit exchange information with each other about the case. This is called discovery, and discovery is about asking the right questions. I will work hard to get to the bottom of your case. It is my goal to find out who, what, where, when, why, how and what if.

During the lawsuit, the Judge will decide various legal issues that are raised in the case. I am experienced and trained to argue your case to the Judge.

Most importantly, I will work hard to keep your case moving forward until a resolution is reached. Be assured, I know that you do not want your case to drag on.

YOUR DEPOSITION

A deposition is the taking of testimony under oath. Most depositions are held out of Court at a convenient location agreed upon by the lawyers. You'll be asked detailed questions about your case, and your answers will be typed up by a court reporter or recorded on videotape. Portions of the deposition may be read aloud in Court, especially when the opposing attorney is trying to show contradictions between your deposition and your testimony in Court. For more information, see *Giving Your Deposition* brochure.

YOUR TRIAL

Before your trial, I will take you inside the Courtroom where your trial will be held. I will cover all the details that go into a successful trial, like where you sit, how you dress, and how you communicate with the jury and judge. But most importantly, I will try to instill confidence so you can tell your side and be yourself. At all times, you will tell the truth about your case, but good communication skills need practice. I want you to get a "feel" for things and gain confidence by being prepared.

By the time we go to Court, you will have reviewed with me the evidence in your case. You will know what your case is about. Trial preparation is time consuming but it pays off when you are prepared in court.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

Every case is different and unique, so I can only give you our general experience in resolving several thousand cases over 25 years, but I find that most cases take 4 months to 8 months when there is no lawsuit. If there is a lawsuit, then most cases take about 12 to 18 months. Occasionally, we see a case go beyond 2 years, but I can tell you that is a rare thing in my office unless the case involves an appeal. An appeal can take more than 3 years.

YOUR MONEY

When I was a very young lawyer, my first injury client bought herself the nicest Cadillac I ever saw. She brought it to my office. I was rather proud that she was happy, but in 3 months she called me. When she bought her Cadillac, she financed part of the purchase price. Interest rates were very high in those days, but hers was extremely high. Once the money from her case was gone, she could not make her car payments. What was worse...she could not make her house payments either. Had I asked, I would have learned that the money she owed on her home was about the same as the down payment she made on her Cadillac. And now, she could not pay either. Did I really help her in the long run?



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ABOUT BURMANLAW

I've practiced law 25 plus years. I am a trial lawyer. Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Law is all I do. I make home, hospital and nursing home visits, just call me for an appointment. You need no money to hire me.

When we meet, I will answer your questions and help you prepare a plan of action. I will put everything in writing.

You are here to right a wrong, you want to find out what you can do. As your personal attorney, I'll show you how the law helps you right a wrong.

If you decide to take that first step and contact me, then I promise to listen. Anything you tell me is confidential. Ask any question you want. I promise an honest answer. Don't worry about the paperwork. I provide free courier services to handle your paperwork no matter where you live or work.

Burman Law will mail you a copy of every document we mail out in your case, or file with the Court. Burman Law will always mail you written notice of any critical appointment or Court appearance. Burman Law will promptly return your call or email. And as always, ask any question you want...share any concern you have...we promise to listen and give you an honest answer.

DOCTORS

Update me right after you visit your doctor. Add me in your contacts on your cell phone. Send me a text message or just call, but let me know (1) what your doctor talked to you about, and (2) what your doctor did for you. Your medical updates help me develop vital medical evidence. Often-times, what you and the doctor discussed at your visit does not make it to the medical records typed up at a later date.

Communicating with your doctor is just as important as communicating with your lawyer, so tell your doctor exactly what is on your mind. Get prepared for your appointment. Think about what you are going to say. Write it down if necessary. Be ready to describe your symptoms. Be ready to explain what has changed and what has not changed. Be specific. Gain eye contact with your doctor. Ask questions and listen. Follow your doctor's advice. And, if your doctor cannot talk to you, then talk to the nurse assisting the doctor.

If you are off work, ask you doctor for a work excuse. Make sure your lawyer and your employer have a current copy of all work excuses. A work excuse should be dated, signed by the doctor, and very briefly explain how long you will be off work and why it is medically necessary. If the work excuse returns you to work, it should specifically say what you can and cannot do when you return to work.

PAYING YOUR BILLS

BurmanLaw will immediately determine what can be done to pay your bills. We will look at all types of insurance, including automobile insurance, disability insurance, health insurance, accidental death and injury insurance, and certain government programs.

In addition, BurmanLaw will explain how the different financial resources available to you will yield the most benefit over time. Burman Law can help you file the necessary paperwork. In most instances, there is no charge for us to file your paperwork, and if there is a charge, we will confirm it to you in writing.

INSURANCE COVERAGE

BurmanLaw will work with you to make sure that all insurance coverage available to you is maximized. Please make sure that you

provide BurmanLaw with any insurance information or documentation that we request. DO NOT talk to any insurance adjuster or claims handler or private investigator without notifying Mike Burman and discussing this directly. If any insurance adjuster or claims handler or private investigator makes any kind of contact with you, please notify me immediately.

We have an approach with adjusters designed to achieve positive results in a majority of claims. We work closely with you to make sure all forms and claims are properly filled out and filed. In most cases, we already have the necessary forms and contacts.

SETTLEMENT ATTEMPT

A settlement attempt is an effort by both sides to come to an agreement to conclude your case. If both sides agree, then your case is settled and you will not go in to Court, but all sides must agree.

Before I put a value on your case, I will explain to you the basis for my valuation. With the aid of computer technology, I will review the key evidence in your case with you. I will explain to you the risks and benefits of settling your case. Together, we will set a value on your case which I will confirm in writing. I will never settle your case without your permission.

After handling thousands of cases over 25 plus years of law practice, I am trained in the techniques insurance adjusters use to try and reduce the value of your case. I have developed negotiation strategies over the years that motivate the insurance adjuster to fairly and equitably value your case.

For more information, see
<http://burmanlaw.com>