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April 2017

DON'T "PLAY THE FOOL"

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO WORK WITH AN ATTORNEY AFTER AN ACCIDENT

When you are injured in an auto accident — or any other kind of accident — you may consider pursuing a settlement without a lawyer.

Insurance companies love this. Why? Insurance companies want you to "play the fool." They are not in business to work with you, regardless of your injuries, or expenses like hospital bills and wages

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It comes down to this: If an insurance company can get away with paying you as little as possible — preferably nothing — they will. This is why it's so important to work with an attorney.

On your own, **it is** possible to settle with insurance companies or the party with whom you're seeking to settle. However, you will likely receive a much smaller settlement than you otherwise would.

Here are some questions to keep in mind before independently pursuing a settlement:

- How much do you know about the law — and the full extent of your rights in an injury situation?
- Are you prepared to deal with all of the administrative duties, from filing a formal complaint to handling a deposition?
- Are you in a position to take on the responsibilities and stress that come with working with an insurance company or the other party's legal team?

One mistake, or one deadline missed, can cost you dearly. When all you want to do after an accident is take care of medical bills and lost earnings, and get your life back on track, consider your best legal option: an attorney.

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