When someone calls a personal injury lawyer for the first time, the legal issue is usually only part of the problem. The caller may be hurt, out of work, juggling medical appointments, dealing with an insurance adjuster, and trying to keep a household running. By the time they reach a law office, they rarely want a lecture on tort law. They want clear answers, a realistic sense of what happens next, and some reassurance that they are not about to make a costly mistake.

After years of handling injury claims, certain questions come up again and again. They come from people injured in car crashes, slip and falls, workplace incidents, dog bites, and a wide range of other events. The details change, but the concerns are remarkably consistent. Here are the answers I find myself giving most often, with the context clients usually need but do not always know to ask for.

## Do I even have a case?

This is almost always the first question, even if it is not asked in those exact words. Many people assume that if they got hurt, someone must owe them compensation. Others take the opposite view and think that unless the facts are dramatic, they have no case at all.

A valid personal injury claim usually requires more than an injury. There must be some legal fault, some causal link between that fault and the injury, and actual damages. Those damages can include medical bills, lost wages, pain, disability, future treatment, and other losses that can be proven. If someone rear-ended you at a stoplight and you went straight from the scene to urgent care with neck and back pain, that fact pattern tends to be easier to evaluate. If you slipped in a grocery store but no one knows how long https://www.google.com/maps?cid=12754349830689844018 the spill was there, the case may be more complicated because proving negligence can be harder.

Clients are often surprised to learn that serious injuries do not automatically create strong cases. I have seen devastating injuries in situations where fault was murky or evidence disappeared early. I have also seen seemingly modest injuries turn into solid claims because liability was clear, medical treatment was consistent, and the impact on the client's daily life was well documented.

The early facts matter. Photos, witness names, an incident report, vehicle damage, body camera footage, security footage, and medical records from the first week can all change the value and viability of a claim. Timing matters too. A delay in treatment does not always sink a case, but it gives an insurer room to argue that the injury was minor or unrelated.

## How much is my case worth?

This is the question people ask most often and the one no careful lawyer should answer too quickly. Case value depends on a cluster of factors, not one headline number. The type of injury matters, but so do the mechanics of the incident, the quality of the evidence, the available insurance, the client's medical history, whether the client made a good recovery, and how a jury in that venue tends to respond to similar facts.

A broken wrist in one case may settle for far less than chronic soft tissue injuries in another. That sounds counterintuitive until you look at the surrounding facts. A fracture that heals cleanly in eight weeks with little wage loss may be easier to explain but less valuable than months of documented pain, repeated treatment, and long-term restrictions that interfere with work and sleep.

Insurance policy limits often shape the practical value of a case. A claim may be worth more on paper than the at-fault party can actually pay. If the defendant has a $25,000 policy and no meaningful assets, collecting beyond that limit may be unrealistic. On the other hand, commercial defendants, larger policies, umbrella coverage, or underinsured motorist coverage can change the picture dramatically.

Clients also need to understand the difference between settlement value and verdict value. A jury might award more than an insurer offers, but trial carries risk, cost, delay, and uncertainty. Good lawyers do not sell fantasies. They talk in ranges, explain the variables, and revisit value as treatment progresses and evidence develops.

## When should I call a lawyer?

Sooner is usually better. That does not mean every scraped bumper requires immediate legal intervention, but there is real value in getting advice before avoidable mistakes happen. The first few days after an incident are often when evidence is preserved or lost. Surveillance video gets overwritten. Vehicles are repaired or salvaged. Witnesses become harder to find. People make well-intentioned statements to adjusters that later get used against them.

A short consultation early on can help you avoid those problems. Even if a lawyer does not take the case, you may learn what records to keep, what deadlines apply, whether to give a recorded statement, and how to document the progression of symptoms. That guidance can matter more than people realize.

There is also a practical point here. Lawyers are much better at evaluating a case when the evidence trail is still fresh. I have had potential clients call months later with a perfectly legitimate injury, only to discover that crucial video no longer exists and no photographs were ever taken. At that stage, the conversation becomes harder, not because the client is wrong, but because proof has thinned out.

## What should I do right after an accident?

People remember this advice best when it is simple. In the immediate aftermath, priorities should be safety, medical care, and documentation.

1. Get medical attention as soon as reasonably possible, even if you think the injury might be minor.
2. Report the incident to the appropriate party, such as police, a store manager, or a property owner.
3. Take photographs of the scene, visible injuries, damage, hazards, and anything else that may change quickly.
4. Gather names and contact information for witnesses, if you can do so safely.

5. Avoid detailed statements about fault, especially to the other side's insurer, until you understand your situation.

That last point deserves emphasis. Many people believe honesty alone will protect them. Honesty matters, but so does context. A person can honestly say, "I'm fine," at the scene because adrenaline is masking pain, then wake up the next morning barely able to move. Adjusters know that. They also know how to frame early comments as admissions.

## Do I need to see a doctor if I am not sure I am badly hurt?

Yes, if there is a meaningful chance you were injured. People often hope pain will fade on its own. Sometimes it does. Sometimes it does not, and by then the delay has both medical and legal consequences.

From a medical standpoint, early evaluation can catch injuries that are easy to underestimate. Concussions, internal injuries, ligament damage, and spinal issues do not always announce themselves dramatically at the scene. From a legal standpoint, prompt treatment creates a cleaner record. If there is a three-week gap before the first appointment, the insurer will almost certainly argue that something else caused the symptoms.

This does not mean you need to go to the emergency room for every ache. It means using reasonable judgment and seeking appropriate care. For some people that is an ER visit. For others it is urgent care, primary care, or an orthopedic evaluation within a day or two. The key is not to tough it out in silence if you are hurting.

I have seen clients do real damage to otherwise good cases by skipping treatment because they were worried about cost. That concern is understandable. Medical care is expensive. But untreated injuries can worsen, and legal claims built on sparse records are weaker. A lawyer can often help explain options for treatment and how bills may be addressed later, but that conversation is far easier when the client has not waited months.

## Why is the insurance company being friendly if they plan to fight me later?

Because early rapport often helps the insurer, not the claimant. Many adjusters are professional and courteous. Some are genuinely decent people doing a difficult job. But it is still a claims process built around paying what the insurer believes it owes, and often paying as little as it can justify.

A friendly call can lead to a recorded statement taken before you know the extent of your injuries. A quick settlement offer can sound like relief when bills are already arriving. A request for broad medical authorizations can seem routine, when in reality it may let the insurer search for prior records that can be used to say your symptoms predated the accident.

None of this means every insurer acts in bad faith. It means their interests and yours are not aligned. If your injuries are minor and fully resolved, handling a small claim directly can sometimes make sense. But when injuries are significant, treatment is ongoing, or fault is disputed, a warm tone on the phone should not be mistaken for neutral advice.

## What if the accident was partly my fault?

This is where state law matters a great deal. In many jurisdictions, being partly at fault does not automatically bar recovery. It may reduce what you can recover by your share of responsibility. In others, crossing a certain percentage threshold can prevent recovery altogether.

Clients often fear this issue more than they should. Real-life accidents are messy. A driver may have been speeding slightly but still got hit by someone who ran a red light. A pedestrian may have been outside a marked crosswalk, but the driver may still have had a clear chance to avoid the collision. A store customer may not have seen a spill, but the store's notice of the hazard may still be the central issue.

Fault is not always obvious on day one. Police reports help, but they are not the final word. Photos, vehicle data, eyewitness accounts, and expert analysis can all shift the picture. The worst thing a client can do is assume some personal mistake means there is no point seeking advice. Partial fault is often a damages issue, not a case-ending one.

## How do lawyer fees work in a personal injury case?

Most personal injury lawyers work on a contingency fee. That means the lawyer is paid a percentage of the recovery, and if there is no recovery, there is usually no attorney fee. The exact percentage varies by firm, by state, and sometimes by litigation stage. Cases that require filing suit or going to trial often involve a higher fee than cases resolved before litigation.

That said, clients should ask direct questions about costs as well as fees. Filing fees, medical records, deposition expenses, expert witnesses, and other case costs can add up. Some firms advance those costs and recover them from the settlement later. Others handle them differently. There is nothing improper about either approach if it is explained clearly in writing.

A good fee conversation should leave the client understanding three things: what percentage is being charged, how costs are handled, and whether medical liens or unpaid bills will come out of the settlement. People are sometimes shocked by the net amount they receive, not because anyone acted improperly, but because no one took the time to walk through the math early.

## How long will my case take?

Longer than most clients hope, shorter than some fear. Simple claims with clear liability and completed treatment may resolve in a few months. More serious cases often take much longer. If surgery is involved, if future care is uncertain, or if liability is contested, a year or more is common. Once a lawsuit is filed, the timeline can stretch further depending on the court's calendar and the complexity of discovery.

One of the most common reasons cases take time is that settling too early is dangerous. If you resolve a claim before you know whether you need surgery, injections, or long-term therapy, you are guessing at damages. Once a release is signed, the case is usually over. There is *Personal Injury Lawyer* no reopening it because your condition worsened.

There are also external delays clients do not see from the outside. Waiting for complete records can take weeks. Some providers are fast, others are not. Defendants may deny obvious facts. Insurance carriers may change adjusters midway through negotiation. Courts may set hearings months out. None of this is dramatic, but it is real.

Clients generally do better when they treat the case as a process rather than an event. Progress matters, but so does pacing. A rushed settlement can feel good for a month and regrettable for years.

## Will my case have to go to court?

Most personal injury cases settle before trial. That is the broad reality. But “most” is not “all,” and clients should be cautious about any promise that a case will definitely settle quickly or without litigation.

Some claims need a lawsuit because the insurer undervalues the injuries, disputes fault, or simply refuses to negotiate reasonably. Filing suit does not mean trial is inevitable. Many cases settle during litigation, after both sides exchange documents, take depositions, and get a clearer view of the evidence. In practice, the pressure of a real trial date often moves cases more than months of pre-suit back-and-forth ever did.

The possibility of court matters for another reason. The value of a claim is often tied to whether the lawyer is actually prepared to try it. Insurance companies know which firms push paper and which firms prepare cases for juries. A credible trial posture can change settlement dynamics significantly, even if the case never sees a courtroom.

## What if I have a pre-existing injury?

This issue scares clients because they think any prior back pain, knee problem, or old car accident will destroy credibility. Usually it does not. Pre-existing conditions are common, especially as people get older. The legal question is not whether you were medically perfect before the incident. It is whether this event caused a new injury, aggravated an old one, or accelerated symptoms that were manageable before.

That distinction matters. If someone had occasional chiropractic visits once or twice a year but after a crash needed months of treatment, missed work, and could no longer lift their child comfortably, those facts may support an aggravation claim. The prior history does not erase the new harm. It simply becomes part of the analysis.

The mistake clients make is hiding prior problems. That almost always backfires because the records eventually surface. A better approach is candor paired with context. If your symptoms were stable before and materially worse after, say so, and let the records tell the story. Lawyers and doctors can usually work with a truthful, nuanced medical history. They struggle much more with surprises.

## Should I post about the accident on social media?

No, or at least not if you want to reduce avoidable risk. Social media rarely helps an injury claim and often harms it in ways that seem unfair but are entirely predictable.

A smiling photo at a birthday dinner can be used to suggest you were not in pain. A post about a weekend outing can be stripped of context and turned into “evidence” that your limitations are exaggerated. Even privacy settings are not a shield. Friends share things. Screenshots circulate. Public portions of profiles are routinely reviewed.

The safer approach is restraint. Do not post about the accident, your injuries, your treatment, your activities, or the case itself. Ask close family members to avoid tagging you in ways that create misleading impressions. This is not paranoia. It is basic discipline in a claim where credibility is often the most valuable asset you have.

## What documents should I keep?

Good records make better cases. You do not need to become your own paralegal, but some organization goes a long way. Keep the documents that show what happened, what treatment you received, what it cost, and how the injury affected your life.

Clients who keep a simple running folder, digital or paper, make my job easier and usually strengthen their own claims. Photographs taken over time can show bruising, healing, scarring, or mobility devices that later disappear from memory. A short pain journal, if done honestly and not theatrically, can help explain sleep disruption, missed events, and activity limits better than vague recollections months later.

The most useful records often include these:

1. Accident reports, claim numbers, and correspondence from insurers.
2. Medical bills, visit summaries, prescriptions, and therapy records.
3. Pay stubs or employer letters showing missed work and lost income.
4. Photos of injuries, vehicles, property damage, and the scene.
5. Receipts for out-of-pocket expenses such as medication, transportation, or medical equipment.

You do not need perfect paperwork on day one. Many clients come in with a glove compartment full of loose pages and a phone full of screenshots. That is workable. The important thing is not to throw things away because they seem minor at the time.

## Why does my lawyer keep telling me to be patient?

Because impatience is expensive. I do not mean that harshly. Injury claims unfold slowly for reasons that are often invisible to clients. Your lawyer may be waiting on records, reviewing liens, evaluating future treatment, or holding back on demand because another month of medical clarity could materially improve the case.

Clients sometimes assume silence means inactivity. Often the opposite is true. Strong case handling tends to look less dramatic than people expect. It involves repeated record requests, careful review of billing errors, follow-ups with providers, analysis of wage loss documentation, negotiation over liens, and strategic timing. There are no fireworks in that, but there is value.

The right kind of patience is not passive. It is informed patience. You should expect updates, responsiveness, and clear explanations. You should also understand that the best result rarely comes from pushing a claim to closure before the medical and financial picture is ready.

## The question behind all the other questions

Underneath nearly every client conversation is a simpler concern: “Am I going to be okay?” The legal system cannot answer that fully. It can compensate losses, force accountability, and create leverage where an injured person would otherwise face a company or insurer alone. What it cannot do is erase the disruption of an injury or give back the time swallowed by treatment and uncertainty.

That is why the best answers from a personal injury lawyer are not just legal answers. They are practical ones. Get care early. Preserve evidence. Be careful what you say. Do not guess at value too soon. Understand the role of insurance. Ask direct questions about fees, timing, and risk. And if something feels off, whether it is a too-fast offer, a pressure-filled phone call, or a gut sense that your injuries are being minimized, pay attention to that instinct.

People do not usually need a lawyer because they enjoy conflict. They need one because injury claims sit at the intersection of pain, money, proof, and power. Clear advice matters there. So does judgment. The right answer is not always the quickest one, and the strongest case is not always the loudest. More often, it is the one built carefully, documented thoroughly, and handled with enough realism to see both its strengths and its limits.

CGH Injury Lawyers

Address: 2701 Lawrence St Ste 201, Denver, CO 80205

Phone number: +17206698062

## FAQ About Personal Injury Lawyer

### Is it worth suing for personal injury?

Whether suing is worth it depends on your medical bills, lost wages, and clear proof of fault. It is usually worth it if you have severe injuries, expensive treatments, or uncooperative insurance. It is rarely worth it for minor bumps and bruises where costs and time outweigh the payout.

### How hard is it to win a personal injury lawsuit?

Winning a personal injury claim is generally favorable if you have strong proof. About 95% of cases settle out of court, and plaintiffs win roughly 50% of the cases that actually go to a trial. However, success depends heavily on clear facts, the type of accident, and insurance company resistance.

### What not to say to a personal injury lawyer?

When talking to your personal injury lawyer, the biggest mistake is hiding facts or minimizing your pain. You should never lie, omit prior injuries, downplay your symptoms, or guess about details you do not know. Absolute honesty is required because your attorney needs to know the bad facts to defend your case against the insurance company.