**What to Expect During an Initial Consultation with a Personal Injury Attorney**

Following a car accident where you were injured, you should consult with and hire a personal injury attorney. An attorney can handle the claim on your behalf and get you the settlement you deserve. But many people are nervous to talk with an attorney or to meet with them, as they don’t know what to expect. Thankfully the process is simple and pain-free and nothing that anyone should feel intimidated or scared by.

**What to Expect During the Consultation**

A consultation with a personal injury attorney gives you the opportunity to meet with the attorney and the attorney the opportunity to meet with you. They will be trying to learn the facts surrounding your accident and whether it is a compensable claim. The meeting is generally broken up into three parts that include:

* Fact Gathering
* A General Discussion
* Retainer Signing

**Fact Gathering**

A personal injury attorney will need to gain as much information from you as possible regarding the accident and your injuries to determine who was at fault and whether your claim is compensable. The attorney is not trying to interrogate you, but is rather interested in the who, what, when, where, how and why of the accident. During this conversation, be prepared to explain as much as you know about the accident and your current injuries. The attorney may also ask you specific questions to obtain the information they need. Questions the attorney may ask include:

* When and where did the accident occur?
* Who was involved?
* Why do you think the accident occurred?
* What were the conditions that caused the accident?
* Was a police report made? Did you give them a statement?
* Were any tickets issued?
* Do you have any photos of the accident scene or vehicles?
* Were there witnesses and do you have their contact information?
* How much damage was done to your vehicle?
* Have you had any contact with insurance companies? Who are they and have you given any statements?
* What injuries did you sustain?
* What medical treatment have you had? What medical treatment is currently recommended for the future?
* Do you have photos of your injuries?
* Who are you receiving medical treatment from?

**A General Discussion About Your Claim**

Once a personal injury attorney has gathered facts from you, they will have a general discussion with you about your claim. This discussion will include whether they feel your claim is compensable, what to expect, what sort of compensation you may be entitled to and what they can and will do for you. During this stage, you will want to address any questions or concerns you may have and get a better understanding of what the future of your claim is. You will also want to ask about any possible fees and how the attorney gets paid during this stage.

**Signing a Retainer**

If you decide to hire the attorney, you will be asked to sign a retainer. The retainer gives the attorney the authority to handle the claim on your behalf, obtain evidence and medical records, speak with the insurance companies, file legal paperwork and also details the payment or fee schedule. This will be done at the end of the initial consultation, or whenever you decide to hire the attorney, and will be signed by both parties.

An initial consultation is your opportunity to interview an attorney and to see how they can help you. Contact us today for a free consultation. We will take the time to listen to what you have to say, address any concerns you have and give an honest assessment regarding your case. Let us evaluate your case and explain how we can be of assistance to you today.