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January 2025

How Long Does a Personal Injury Lawsuit Take?

Personal injury cases arise when someone suffers an injury due to another party's negligence or wrongdoing, such as in car accidents, slips and falls, or premises liability cases. The duration of a personal injury lawsuit can vary, depending on the complexity of the case, the severity of the injuries, and whether it settles before trial.

We will help you throughout the process by investigating the incident, gathering evidence, negotiating with insurance companies, and representing you in court if necessary. We also work to recover fair compensation for medical expenses, lost income, and pain and suffering while guiding you through each stage of the legal process.

Accidents and Injuries That Result From Others' Negligence

Accidents and injuries resulting from the negligence of others can occur in various situations and affect people in everyday life. Here are some common types of accidents and injuries resulting from others' negligence.

Motor vehicle accidents. Drivers who are distracted, speeding, or under the influence



Need more information? Scan this QR code to visit our website, where you can learn more about the litigation of a personal injury case, important evidence needed for a claim or lawsuit, and compensation that may be awarded.



of alcohol or drugs often cause crashes. Negligent driving behaviors, such as failing to stop at red lights or ignoring traffic signs, can result in serious injuries, such as broken bones, head trauma, and whiplash. In more severe cases, car accidents can lead to permanent disabilities or fatalities.

Slip-and-fall accidents. Property owners, whether individuals or businesses, have a responsibility to maintain safe environments for visitors. If they fail to clean up spills, repair broken sidewalks, or provide adequate warning signs for hazards, people can slip, trip, or fall. These accidents often cause sprains, fractures, or head injuries, which can be particularly dangerous for older adults.

Pedestrian accidents: Pedestrians may be struck when drivers negligently run red lights, speed, or fail to yield the right-of-way. These types of accidents can lead to severe injuries, including broken bones, internal injuries, and traumatic brain injuries.

Bicycle accidents: Cyclists often share the road with vehicles, but if drivers don't follow traffic laws — such as by giving cyclists enough space or checking blind spots — they can cause crashes that lead to serious injuries, particularly head and spinal cord injuries. Many cyclists wear helmets, but even with protection, high-speed collisions can still result in significant harm.

Pets: Negligence can also lead to dog bites, particularly when pet owners fail to control their animals or allow them to roam freely. An improperly trained or restrained dog can attack and cause injuries, which may include deep cuts, puncture wounds, and infections.

Length of a Personal Injury Lawsuit

The length of a personal injury lawsuit can vary widely depending on several factors. Some cases resolve quickly, while others can drag on for months or even years. Here are some common factors that can affect the length of a lawsuit.

Complexity of the case: If the case involves multiple parties, such as when more than one person or company is responsible for the injury, it can take longer to sort out fault. Additionally, cases involving complicated medical issues or technical evidence may require more time for expert testimony and investigations.

Severity of injuries: If the accident victim suffered serious or long-term injuries, such as permanent disability or trauma, it can take time to fully understand the extent of the damage. This includes waiting for medical evaluations, ongoing treatments, or surgeries. Settling on the proper amount of compensation may also take longer for severe injuries.

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YOUR ROLE AS EXECUTOR

Estate Plan Responsibilities Explained

Being named an executor is an honor that comes at a difficult time. But looking after the estate of a loved one after they are gone is a privilege that comes with many responsibilities. You must manage paperwork, assets, and maintenance costs. Moreover, as executor of the estate, you



are responsible for carrying out the will of the deceased. If you have been named executor of an estate, here are three duties you must manage.

Asset Distribution

The primary role of the executor is to distribute the estate's property according to the decedent's wishes. This also includes paying for maintenance costs during probate and before distribution can occur. As the executor, you are responsible for paying any mortgage, utility, car, and other necessary bills until the beneficiaries take over those responsibilities. Although some assets may avoid probate, the executor must file the will in probate court in most states.

Paperwork and Notification

As executor, you must obtain copies of the death certificate from the funeral home.

This is necessary to file a tax return for the decedent's final year of life and to file a life insurance claim. It will also be required when notifying applicable government agencies, such as the Social Security Administration, of the decedent's passing. It will also be your responsibility to notify the decedent's credit card company, banks, and mortgage lenders.

Funeral Arrangements and Accounts

The decedent's wishes for funeral arrangements will most likely be included in the will, and it is your role as executor to carry them out. Additionally, all payments made on behalf of the decedent should come from an estate account. Establishing an estate account for dividend payments, paychecks, tax refunds, and burial expenses is key. This role may seem complicated, but whoever gave it to you knew you were up to the task.

Embrace the French Art of Living

Enrich Your Golden Years With L'art de Vivre

Living like a French person isn't just about enjoying cheese and wine; it's about embracing *l'art de vivre*, or the art of living. This philosophy emphasizes finding joy in simple pleasures, prioritizing quality over quantity, and cultivating beauty in everyday life. For those of us reaching our golden years, adopting this way of life can enhance our quality of life and make every moment more fulfilling. Let's explore how you can infuse your daily routine with French elegance and leisure.

Slow down and savor.

The essence of the French lifestyle is taking the time to savor life's joys. In France, this might mean lingering over a meal rather than rushing through it. Apply this principle by taking time to appreciate the small details of your day, whether enjoying the quiet morning hours with a cup of coffee or watching the sunset. This deliberate

slowdown helps to reduce stress and increase mindfulness.

Prioritize self-care.

Self-care is paramount in French culture. It goes beyond vanity to encompass a comprehensive lifestyle that maintains mind and body health. This can involve a balanced diet rich in natural foods, regular physical activity, and routines nourishing the body and soul. As you age, these practices are vital for maintaining your health, energy, and vitality, allowing you to enjoy your years to their fullest potential.

Choose quality over quantity.

The French are known for their classic style, which favors quality over quantity. This principle applies to various aspects of life, from clothing to kitchenware. Investing in fewer but better-quality items ensures longevity and guarantees your purchases are meaningful and genuinely improve your life.



Inspire your inner artist.

The French celebrate creativity as a significant aspect of their daily life. Emulate this by setting aside time for cultural activities that spark your creativity and passion. Whether attending a concert, visiting an art gallery, or simply engaging in a creative hobby at home, these activities enrich your life, stimulate your mind, and provide tremendous joy.

Adopting these elements of the French art of living can bring richness and joy to your everyday life, proving that the golden years can be your most vibrant.

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The legal process: Once you sue, several stages follow, including pre-trial motions, discovery (where both sides exchange information), and depositions (where witnesses are questioned under oath). These steps can take time, as each party needs to review the evidence and prepare for the next phase.

Settlement or trial: Whether the case goes to trial or is settled out of court is a key factor. Trials are generally much longer than settlements because they involve court dates, jury selection, presenting evidence, and deliberations. Most personal injury cases settle before they reach trial, as both sides prefer to avoid the uncertainty and cost of a court battle. However, if the insurance company does not offer a fair settlement, the case will likely proceed to trial and may take longer to resolve.

If you suffered injuries in an accident that a negligent individual or entity caused, call our office today at 308-336-6044 to speak with a skilled personal injury lawyer to start your free case evaluation.

- Bill Steffens



Ingredients

- 1 boneless pork sirloin roast (3-4 pounds)
- 2 tsp dried oregano
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp pepper
- 2 medium onions, cut into thin wedges
- 1 cup plus 3 tbsp orange juice, divided
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 1 tbsp grapefruit juice
- 1 tbsp steak sauce
- 1 tbsp reduced-sodium soy sauce
- 1 tsp grated orange zest
- 1 tsp salt
- 3 tbsp cornstarch
- Egg noodles, cooked

Directions

1. Cut roast in half. In a small bowl, combine oregano, ginger, and pepper; rub over pork. In a large skillet coated with oil, brown roast on all sides. Transfer to a slow cooker; add onions.
2. In a small bowl, combine 1 cup orange juice, sugar, grapefruit juice, steak sauce, and soy sauce; pour over roast. Cover and cook on low for 4-5 hours or until meat is tender. Remove meat and onions to a platter.
3. Transfer cooking juices to a small saucepan. Add orange zest and salt. Bring to a boil. Combine cornstarch and remaining orange juice. Gradually stir into the pan for 2 minutes or until thickened. Serve with pork and noodles.



Nashville is known as "Music City" because of its role in the birth of country music and its centuries-old Ryman Auditorium. Famous performers like Jimi Hendrix, Otis Redding, and Dolly Parton have performed in venues on the city's iconic Jefferson Street. As amazing as their live performances are, they are nowhere near as impactful as Jon Bon Jovi's was on Tuesday, Sept. 11, last year.

I Don't Want to Live Forever

On Wednesday, Sept. 12, Jon Bon Jovi, frontman of the rock band Bon Jovi, became the unwitting star of a viral video released by the Nashville Metropolitan Police Department (NMPD). The day prior, while filming a music video for his upcoming album on the public Seigenthaler Pedestrian Bridge, Bon Jovi came across a woman standing on the ledge overlooking the Cumberland River. He quickly acted to ensure she didn't get "One Step Closer" and did his best to provide her with "Something to Believe In." Over several minutes, Bon Jovi evoked his song, "I Got the Girl," and successfully convinced her to step away from the ledge to safety.

Nobody's Hero

The NMPD was impressed by Bon Jovi's selfless act. After YouTube took down the video of Bon Jovi's rescue, the NMPD reposted it on their Facebook page and lauded the singer's achievements wherever they could.

"It takes all of us to help keep each other safe," NMPD Chief John Drake said of Bon Jovi on X (formerly Twitter).

Bon Jovi is no stranger to altruism. His nonprofit organization, the JBJ Soul Foundation, assists those suffering from homelessness, poverty, and hunger. His foundation's food and affordable housing programs have aided the less fortunate since 2006. It sure seems like Bon Jovi is committed to "Work for the Working Man."

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PURPLE HAZE

Prince's Heirs Face Difficult Legal Battle

Estate attorneys constantly harp about the importance of having an updated, thorough estate plan. It may seem like nothing more than a marketing pitch, but those



Photo:
Allen Beaulieu

reminders are consistent because of their dire importance. Take, for example, the case of the legendary musician Prince. When he passed away in April 2016, his estate was valued at over \$150 million. The singer had no children or spouses to speak of, but he had six siblings entitled to inherit his estate. However, determining all potential beneficiaries without an estate plan was a challenge that cost the estate dearly.

Prince's Probate

In the case of Prince's estate, the absence of any will led to a prolonged probate process. While the six siblings were named as legal heirs, they could not agree on a distribution of assets between them. This resulted in frequent court visits and a prolonged legal entanglement that cost the estate millions. During this process, several heirs sold their inheritance shares to a company called Primary Wave, which acquired the rights to

Prince's music. This only complicated the process further.

Unworthy Suitors

Due to the estate's value, many suitors came looking for a portion of the inheritance. This included 45 imposters alleging kinship to the late musician. Ruling them out took half a decade, thousands of court filings, and numerous DNA tests. When all was said and done, the potential heirs cost the estate over \$3 million in legal fees.

The Importance of an Estate Plan

The lack of an established will or trust in Prince's case may have come down to his natural mistrust of lawyers. However, his failure to confide in legal advisors cost his estate and heirs millions of dollars. If you have yet to establish an estate plan, let this be your wake-up call: You do not want a fight to occur in your wake. Prepare for your family's future.