

## Five Things You Should Tell Your Personal Injury Lawyer

If you've hired a lawyer, or are considering hiring a lawyer, for your personal injury claim, it is important to recognize that this will become a long-term, important relationship. This lawyer will need to know about your personality, your medical history, etc., in order to evaluate your case and make sure your claim is approached in the best way possible. This means, you need to be honest and open with your attorney at all times.

Now, your attorney probably doesn't need to know what you wear to bed but here are five things he or she will need to know as your case proceeds.

### Your Criminal History

Usually, minor unrelated incidents will not be relevant to your case - but you might not be able to recognize what's relevant or not, and your attorney can, so it's important to share this information. Opposing counsel will probably run a background check, and therefore you need to make sure your attorney knows everything they might find, so he isn't surprised in court.

### Prior Injuries and Accidents

Opposing counsel will look for anything that might have caused your injuries before the accident, so that they won't have to pay your medical bills. If you do have any pre-existing conditions, your attorney will need to prove these were either made worse by the accident or unrelated.

### Injuries After the Accident

If you get hurt after the accident, these costs will need to be completely separated from the costs for the injuries sustained by the accident - and even then the opposing counsel will probably try to claim your treatments stem from this second injury, not the first. So you need to discuss this with your lawyer.

### Bankruptcy

When you file for bankruptcy before your lawsuit is settled, the damages claim can become part of the bankruptcy estate. But an experienced attorney might be able to work with your bankruptcy attorney to try and ensure that the money goes to you and not to your creditors.

### Divorce

If you're filing for divorce during a lawsuit, your spouse might be entitled to some of the money you will receive in your settlement. Talk to your lawyer about this to ensure that he or she can make decisions with this information in mind.

### Tell ALL

It might sometimes seem like over-sharing, but your attorney really does need to know all of these things - they cannot make informed decisions about proceeding with your case if you have not kept them informed! Remember, your attorney is representing you and should have your best interests at heart.