



# Personal Injury Law

What New Jersey / New York Residents Should Know



**What is personal  
injury law?**

**Personal injury is harm caused to someone due to the fault of another.**



Liability



Damages



Insurance  
coverage

**When should you  
consult with a  
personal injury  
attorney?**



If you've been seriously injured, you should consult with a lawyer **immediately**.

### Notice to Claim

Must file a claim within 90 days

### Statute of Limitations

The amount of time you have to initiate a case after an injury\*

\*Varies state-by-state



**What should you do  
immediately after an  
accident?**

## Collect evidence at the scene of the accident.

- Take photos
- Gather documentation





**What should you look for in  
a personal injury attorney?**



## A good personal injury attorney should...



...specialize in  
personal injury law



...try their  
own cases



...have experience  
handling TBI cases

# How do attorneys get paid?



## Attorneys are paid through a **contingency fee**.

### If they win...

Attorneys receive a percentage of the settlement

Attorneys are reimbursed for expenses

### If they don't win...

You don't pay anything

### Free consultations

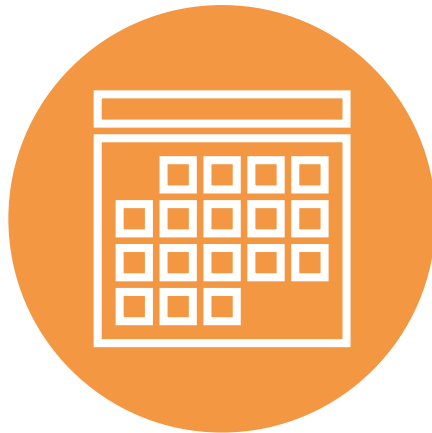
Consultations are always free of charge

You can meet with multiple firms—at no cost to you



**The big questions:**  
**How long? And**  
**how much?**

How long? **Average = 3 years**  
Think about your case in **90-day increments.**



## How much? Impossible to say.

### Economic damages

Future medical care

Lost earnings

### Non-economic damages

Pain and suffering



**What makes  
TBI cases unique?**

## Traumatic brain injury clients **require specific care:**



Patience



Home visits



Frequent  
reminders



**Clients often have difficulty describing how their traumatic brain injury has affected them.**



Conversations with friends and family can help create the full-picture of life before and after TBI

# How do you identify a traumatic brain injury?



## Clients **may not know** that they experienced a **traumatic brain injury**



We use a closed head injury checklist to test if our clients have experienced a TBI

...

The most significant of these symptoms is “post-traumatic amnesia”

Clients **may not know** that they  
experienced a **traumatic brain injury**



You do not need to hit your head to  
suffer a traumatic brain injury

...

TBI can be caused by rotational force  
(e.g. an airbag deploying)



**What are the key  
elements to proving  
a case?**

## Science + Medicine

Medical doctor specialized in  
traumatic brain injury

Neuropsychologist

Diagnostic testing

MRI, CT scan, MRI-DTI



DTI image of brain  
(no TBI)



DTI-detected  
changes to the  
brain after TBI

Image provided by: Joseph Wu, MD. Clinical Director, UCI Brain Imaging Center.

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## Before & After Witness

Comment on the changes  
that they've seen

\*Testimony is key for clients  
without external injuries



# Thank you!

Any questions?