



WHAT HAPPENS **AFTER AN INJURY** IN COLORADO?



A SIMPLE TIMELINE
of a Personal Injury Case



SHAFNER
INJURY LAW

STAGE 1

Right After You're Injured from an Accident

DAY 1-7



DOCUMENTING MATTERS:

Medical records and prompt documentation lay the foundation for a strong claim.



GET MEDICAL CARE IMMEDIATELY

Even if your symptoms seem minor; delays can hurt your health and your case.

DOCUMENT EVERYTHING

Include photos of the scene, injuries, vehicles, and hazards, and get contact information from all witnesses.

FILE A REPORT

If the police did not come to the accident scene, you will need to file a report yourself. This can often be done online through the website of the police department of the city or county where the crash occurred.

If your injuries are related to something besides a car crash, you should seek attorney guidance for how to proceed as soon as possible. In many cases, statutes of limitations are short, and waiting too long may prevent you from making a claim.

AVOID SPEAKING WITH
THE OTHER PARTY'S
INSURANCE UNTIL YOU'VE
TALKED TO A LAWYER

Insurance companies have one goal: to pay you as little as possible. When they call you, they are looking for information that may reduce the value of your case.

CONTACT A PERSONAL
INJURY ATTORNEY

Protect your rights as early as possible.

STAGE 1 ...continued

Right After
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DAY 1-7



Need to Talk Now? We're here! ☎ (303) 796-0555 🌐 shafnerlaw.com



STAGE 2

Investigation & Claim Preparation

WEEK 1-4

 **TIP:** Keep a journal of symptoms, pain levels, and how the injury affects your daily life.

YOUR LEGAL TEAM WILL

gather evidence, accident reports, medical records, and witness statements.

YOU WILL

share your story, answer some key questions, and provide documents.

YOUR ATTORNEY WILL

likely deal with insurance companies on your behalf from here on out.

YOU continue seeing your doctor, specialist, or physical therapist.

YOUR ATTORNEY monitors progress and waits until you reach **maximum medical improvement (MMI)**, when doctors determine your recovery is complete or stabilized.

👉 **WHY WAIT?:** Medical records and prompt documentation lay the foundation for a strong claim.

STAGE 3

Medical Treatment & Monitoring

ONGOING



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STAGE 4

Demand & Negotiation

MONTH 2-6+

👉 GOOD TO KNOW:

You'll be consulted throughout. No decisions are made without your input.

A DEMAND LETTER

Once you've recovered or reached MMI, your attorney sends a demand letter to the at-fault party's insurer.

A CONVERSATION

Negotiations begin.

A FAIR FIGHT

Your attorney fights for fair compensation for medical bills, lost income, pain, and future needs.

A SETTLEMENT

Most cases settle during this stage.

IF a fair settlement is offered, the case is resolved and paid out.

IF negotiations stall, your attorney may file a lawsuit — but even then, many cases still settle before going to court.

IF needed, your case may go to trial, where a jury or judge will decide the outcome.

STAGE 5

Settlement or Litigation

VARIES

👉 **FACT:** Going to trial is rare, but your lawyer will always be prepared to go the distance if it means getting what you deserve.



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WE'RE WITH YOU EVERY STEP OF THE PROCESS

At Shafner Law, we're more than just legal counsel — we're your support system.

We return your calls. We explain every step. We're competitive, and we fight for you like we would for our own family.

You focus
on HEALING.

We'll handle
the REST.

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