

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM YOUR LAWSUIT INTAKE AND INVESTIGATION

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Most people that come into our office are familiar with the term *litigation*. On the other hand, very few people understand what *litigation* actually entails. There are all sorts of strange procedural rules and unusual language that can make the journey mysterious, especially when the individual has been injured. Through these series of reports we will try to take you through the specific areas of the litigation process.

One of the most important, if not the most important, stages of any case is the initial client interview or *intake*. Along with the intake generally goes the *investigation*. During this period of the case, the potential client is expected to relay all the pertinent information to the attorney and their investigators. The MAJORITY of cases are won or lost during this phase.

What we often see is that clients omit certain facts or tell partial truths in order to make their case sound better. Don't try to make your case sound better than it is by misleading your attorney or his investigator. Such conduct jeopardizes your relationship with your attorney and will come back to bite you when the insurance company finds inconsistencies in your story. Your credibility will be shot!

The sooner you seek the advice of legal counsel the sooner you can begin developing the factual underpinnings of your case. At the soonest possible time you must tell your attorney everything you possible can about the case - whether good or bad.

Your attorney is only as good as the information he has. Surprises and misrepresentations destroy even the most rock-solid of cases. Problems with credibility always make people look like a liar and insurance adjustors and jurors will jump on the chance to award you nothing if they don't like you. Oh, and if you thought you could hide information from the insurance company and their attorneys, you cannot. They will find out.

The Law Office of Harold D. Thompson handles all types of personal injury and real estate lawsuits every day and we fully understand the process of successfully handling your case. We are also aware of the pitfalls that arise in the course of litigation as well as the steps necessary to deal with them effectively.

If you believe you have been injured by the lack of care of another give our office a call at 619.615.0767 or visit our website at www.ThompsonLawSD.com for more information.