

From the Desk of

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Dear Friends,

Why do some settlements result in more money than other settlements when the injured people in different cases have similar injuries? Two factors make the difference: (1) the nature of the liability and (2) the quality of the treating physician's report. On first blush, it would seem the injured victim cannot influence these factors, but in fact, this can be done to a certain extent.

The nature of the liability can be effected by a victim's immediate report of this incident to the appropriate authorities. In automobile cases, this means the police. In slip and fall cases, this means the property manager or the resident agent. If no property agent or manager is available, call the police. Going by ambulance from the scene of the incident to the hospital also increases the victim's credibility and the strength of the case. Obtaining the names of eyewitnesses is extremely important as well as pictures of the scene. If automobiles are involved, a picture of the cars involved is helpful. None of this applies to medical malpractice cases.

You can also effect the nature of the treating physician's reports by keeping all appointments, reporting on all areas of the pain experience, and following the physicians' advice precisely. Never skip a scheduled appointment without re-scheduling