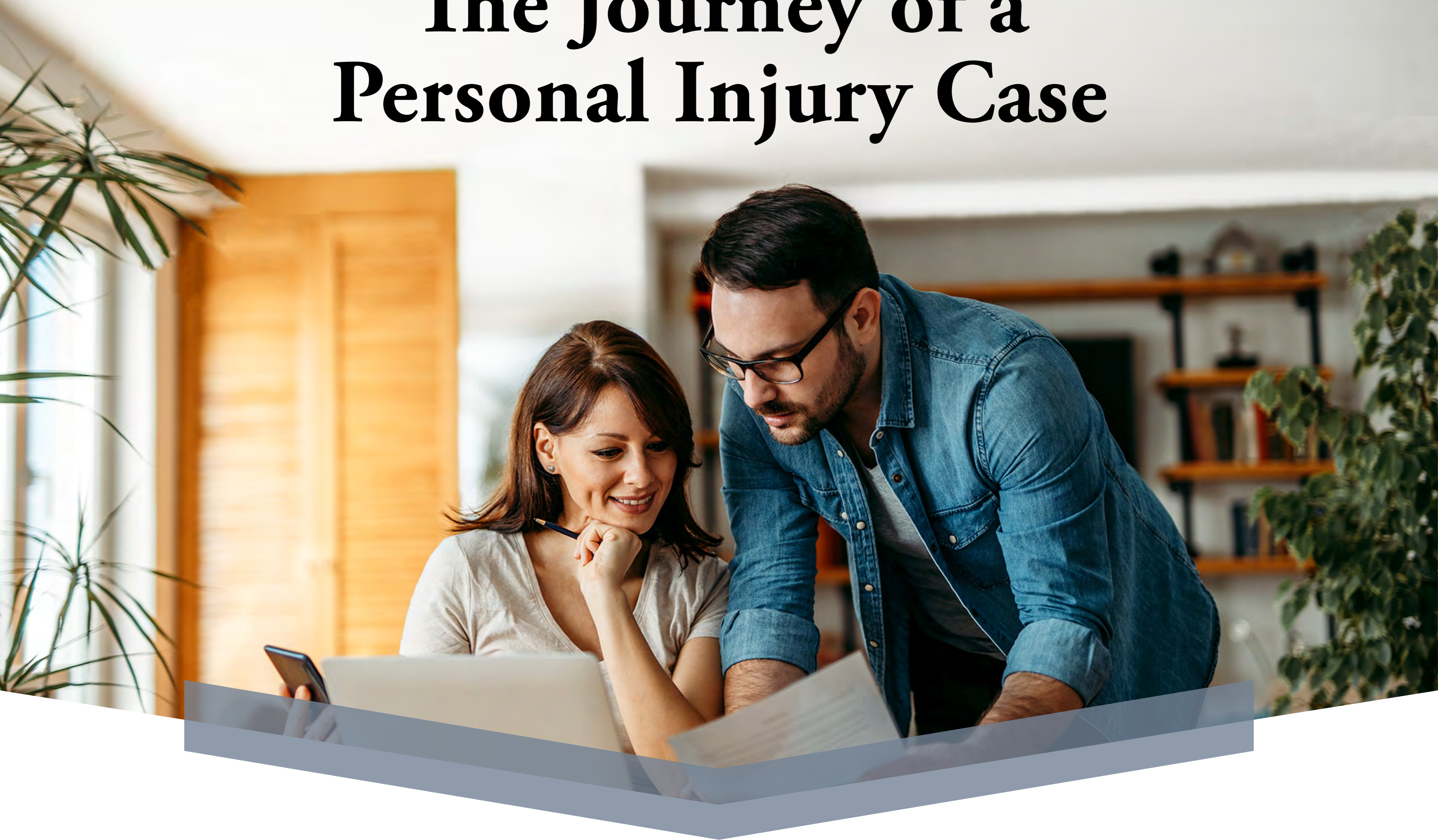


# The Journey of a Personal Injury Case



Several steps must occur between getting hurt and wrapping up a **personal injury case**. Here's what to expect.

## 1. Intake

You've contacted an attorney and your personal injury case officially begins.

**First steps include:**

- Detailed case assessment
- Signing a retainer, medical release, and statement of client rights
- Clarifying next steps and communication protocol

## 2. Investigation

Gather materials, contacts, and other information to build a strong case.

**Important points include:**

- Collecting insurance information for you and other involved parties
- Informing insurance carriers of the claim
- Gathering medical records and bills
- Working with medical and accident experts to understand the facts

## 3. Demand

Send an official demand to the insurance company.

**Your demand package includes:**

- Demand letter
- Records of medical costs
- Anticipated future medical costs

- Proof of past and expected lost income
- Relevant photos and other documents

## 4. Offer to Settle

Insurance company likely responds with a lowball settlement offer.

**Standard advice is to refuse this offer and make a counteroffer.**

## 5. Negotiations

A few rounds of offers and counteroffers with the insurance company.

**An attorney is invaluable to this part of the process.**

### 6a. Case Doesn't Settle

Negotiations break down. Don't accept a lowball offer — the next steps are usually well worth it.

Continue to step 7

### 6b. Case Settles

Negotiations go well and the insurance company agrees to a reasonable settlement amount.

**You can skip to settling the case and getting your money.**

Skip to step 13

## 7. Lawsuit

File a lawsuit to make the case a civil court matter.

- Prepare, file, and serve a complaint.
- Await acknowledgement from the at-fault party.

## 8. Discovery

Involved parties further investigate each other's claims and justifications.

Your demand package includes:

- Questions
- Interviews
- Shared documents
- Talking to witnesses

## 9. Mediation

Discussions continue to be fruitless. A neutral, third party joins to guide negotiations toward the next step.

### 10a. Case Doesn't Settle

Mediation doesn't end in agreement, and you go to trial.

This isn't common but something to be prepared for.

Continue to step 10

### 10b. Case Settles

Mediation is successful and you reach a settlement agreement.

You can skip to settling the case and getting your money.

Skip to step 13

## 11. Trial

Negotiations are over, and the decision is left to a judge or jury.

### 12a. Win

Congratulations! You and your personal injury attorney won your case and you can look forward to receiving your compensation.

### 12b. Lose

This is always a possibility, even though your legal team worked hard to get justice.

Keep in mind that you may have the option to appeal.

## 13. Settle Funds

Before the money is in your hands, a few ends need tying up, including:

- Negotiating liens you owe
- Finalizing medical costs
- Finalizing legal expenses

## 14. Disburse and Close

Finally, you'll get a check from your attorney and your case is closed.

The Brown Firm is dedicated to protecting the injured, whether your case settles quickly or goes all the way to trial.

Learn more when you call [\(800\) 529-1441](tel:8005291441) or visit [www.harrybrownlaw.com](http://www.harrybrownlaw.com).