

# Don't Blow Your Case

## The **TEN BIGGEST MISTAKES** Clients Make That Hurt their Cases, and How **You Can AVOID THEM**

When you get seriously injured, you have more to deal with than you can possibly face. You are juggling doctor's visits, struggling to pay huge medical bills, and being bombarded by calls from the insurance companies – and of course that does not even take into account your number one job, which is getting better. It can be nearly impossible to think straight.

But overlaid on top everything else, you have a nagging worry: Shouldn't I be dealing with my case? What do I need to be doing? Am I blowing things right now, just because I can't think straight?

You know that if you want to be compensated for what happened to you, if you want the insurance company to pay you for what you have lost, then you can't afford to blow your case, no matter how tired and sick you feel.

One of the most frustrating things to me personally is when clients come in to my office long after they have been injured, and I

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see that they have torpedoed their own cases by failing to observe a few key rules.

The good news is that you don't have to make the same mistakes they did. If you simply follow these ten tips, you can avoid blowing your own case:

1. Preserve the evidence.
2. Keep a list of each doctor you see.
3. Collect your medical records and bills.
4. Contact a lawyer promptly.
5. Don't settle just part of your suit.
6. Write down the names of witnesses and similar key information right away.
7. Keep a record of your damages besides medical bills.
8. Keep your doctor's appointments.
9. Treat all the medical professionals with whom you come in contact with the utmost respect.
10. Don't miss more work than you truly need to.

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These tips can make a big difference in whether your case is successful, or unsuccessful. At the same time, you cannot replace getting counsel and advice about your specific case from your lawyer.

## **Chapter 1**

### **Preserve the Evidence**

Everybody knows that in a court of law you have to present evidence if you are going to win your case. But when you have just been seriously injured, you are not thinking to yourself: *Oh, look, that's evidence. I'd best save it.* But you need to start thinking that way.

We tend to think of evidence in terms of what we see on TV. An investigator swoops onto the scene, collecting samples, and fluids, and sends them off to a lab. Professional people are paid to figure out what is evidence, and collect it and evaluate it.

But in the real world, there are no investigators who move in and protect the evidence about your personal injury lawsuit. Instead, the evidence about what happened to you is a thousand little things sitting right in front of you. It's the way you look right now, what your best friend said, what the doctor told you to do.

And the problem is that those pieces of evidence won't last forever. They will change, or get thrown away, or forgotten. Clients regularly kill their own cases, just because they did not know what was important, and what they needed to save.

Let's say that right after the injury, you are in the hospital. You are in traction, have a cast, have a neck brace, or are in a wheelchair. Certainly we hope that situation will not last forever, and that you will get better. The cast will come off, the stitches will go away, or you will

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move on to a walker and then a cane and then to walking. *So take a picture right now, before things change.* As you have heard many times, a picture is worth a thousand words.

Other pieces of evidence will be ruined, too. The stop sign that was down may get put back up. (We certainly hope so!) Take a picture right now while the stop sign is still down.

You will have medical records and medical bills. *Save them.*

Be creative. Look around you and ask yourself: what would help my lawyer make my case? How about a video of me doing my therapy? Or the piece of the rod that was in my leg? These things will all be important and useful evidence in your lawsuit.

And don't forget the personal things. That sweet note your daughter sent you, smeared with tears, that said she missed her mommy? The get well card your six-year-old carefully colored with his favorite colors? The email from your co-worker saying you had missed a big meeting, and somebody else was likely to get that promotion you had been hoping for? The funeral brochure with the picture, and the most heartfelt eulogy you could write, for the most wonderful man you had ever known? All of those things are evidence for your case.

I'd like to add a special note for people with potential product liability cases. I have done product liability cases for some 20 years now. Over that 20 years, time and time again a client has walked into my office with a potential product liability suit – but the product is gone. Their faces fall when I tell them the simple truth: *In order to make a product liability case, I have to have the product.*

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Oh, sure, there are a few exceptions to this rule. For example, there may be products that are recalled across a wide spectrum. Take a knee replacement or a hip replacement, for example. What if you had a defective product in you, but it had to be removed and was thrown away afterwards? In that case, I may be able to prove from your medical records that your medical device was the exact number and model of the one that was recalled. But in general: *I need the product.*

## **Chapter 2**

### **Keep a List of Each Doctor You See**

Over the course of your odyssey to get better, you will be seeing a **lot** of doctors. Their names seem so clear now. *How could I possibly forget Dr. So-and-So?*, you will think. *He was so nice and told me that my injuries were all because of the wreck.*

I have unfortunate news for you. If you are like 99% of all people, your memory will fade. You will **not** remember the names of the doctors you saw, or the home health nurses and aides who came to help you when you got home from the hospital, or the therapists who helped you walk or talk again.

When your lawyer asks you to remember all this information, you will scratch your head, turn to your wife, and say, “What was the name of that nice doctor who told us my injuries were all due to the car accident? And didn’t we see her three times?” And your wife will say, “I think it was Jones. No, Smith? I’m not sure. And I think you saw her five times, dear.”

I can’t tell you the number of times I’ve sat with clients who were trying to remember the details about their medical care – and couldn’t. The bottom line is that when Job No. 1 is getting better, your focus is on getting better, not names and dates.

But this problem is easily remedied. You don’t have to be a supercomputer. You just need to write the facts down! Keep a log,

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and in your log, write down four things: the date you saw the health provider, the name of the health provider, the address and phone number of the health provider, and what you were seeing him/her for. If the doctor says anything particularly important, jot that down, too.

When you meet with your lawyer, he or she will immediately ask you what doctors you have seen, because their bills are part of your damages, and their medical records explain what your damages are.

I have seen far too many clients “leave money on the table”, as it has come to be termed. By failing to keep track of their medical providers, the clients cannot get the medical records from those doctors, or claim the money paid to those medical providers as damages. Even if the defendant has insurance that would cover the medical bills (or, in Georgia, even if you have UM coverage that would cover your own medical bills), the insurance will only cover medical bills that you can prove you had. If you don't remember a medical bill, you cannot ask the insurance company to cover it.

It is true that many times you can recreate the bills and records by seeing whether your other doctors refer to the medical providers whose names you cannot recall, and by seeing whether your medical insurance company has records of what amounts it paid. But the sad truth is that you will never, ever capture all of the medical information unless you have it written down. You will miss something – a doctor you saw only once, a therapist you don't remember, a bill you threw out, or a prescription that you picked up at a different drug store.

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To make your life easier, I have put a chart that you can use on the next page. If you need more than one page, keep making copies and keep writing!

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**Lee Wallace's  
I Am Not Going to Blow My Case  
Medical Providers Chart**

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404-814-0465

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of My Medical Provider</b>	<b>Address and Phone Number</b>	<b>Why I Saw the Medical Provider and What He or She Told Me</b>
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## **Chapter 3**

### **Collect Your Medical Records and Bills**

If the legal system could make your injury go away, we would be in a better world. Unfortunately, that is not even within the realm of what the legal system can do for you. The best the legal system can do is compensate you – meaning pay you back – for what you have lost as a result of your injury. The legal system has a cold, hard calculus. It can't heal, it can't soothe. All it can do is compensate.

It is hard for clients to come to grips with that very difficult fact. If someone offered you \$1,000,000 for your life, or for your daughter's health – you would indignantly order them from your home. *How dare you?*, you would shout. Or as the Bible puts it, "Is not life more than food? And the body more than clothing?" You know deeply, intuitively, that life and health are worth much more than dollars.

But with the legal system, that's all we've got. And we have to live with it.

In order to work within the very limited system we have, you have to put a dollar value on what happened to you. And that value begins with your medical bills and records.

In order for you to be paid back, you have to be able to prove (1) what happened to you, and (2) how much the injury has cost you. You can rail against the system – but in the end, we don't have anything better. In fact, nobody in the world has anything better. To

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paraphrase the famous quote, it's the least worst legal system ever devised.

When juries and insurance companies decide how much a claim is worth, they place a very high value on the numbers you can write down on a piece of paper and add up. Those numbers are tangible and real. Pain and suffering is obviously extra – and they worry about how to figure out what the value of pain and suffering is. How serious **is** what happened to you?

Unfortunately, you can never hand your lawyer a record that **proves** how much you have lost emotionally, or how much pain and suffering you had. Pain and suffering is a bill you pay every day, but it never comes in written form. In the end, after the jury members hear what every witness has to say, they just writes down a number for pain and suffering -- the very best estimate they can make.

When it comes to numbers that can be written down on a piece of paper and added up, the only thing you have is your medical bills and your lost wages. The jury, the insurance company, and your lawyer will all start there when they begin evaluating the dollar value of your case.

And when it comes to proving how you were hurt, you have no substitute: you have to have the medical records that show what the doctor said was wrong with you. The medical records also show the tangible things that were wrong with you: an x-ray may show a broken bone, an MRI may show a bulging disc, and a lab test may show an elevated creatinine level. Each of these facts is vitally important to figuring out what your lawsuit is worth.

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Given that these records are so important, it is no surprise that you will need to get them to show your lawyer. If your lawyer is going to evaluate your case, she needs the ***facts***.

## **Chapter 4**

### **Contact a Lawyer Promptly**

I can't tell you how many times it has happened. My voice drops an octave. I can barely get the words out. "I don't think you have a case. I know you [lost a parent, had the wrong limb removed, were run over by a drunken truck driver]. It's just that I think you have missed the statute of limitations."

**Under the laws of every single state, you have only a certain, limited amount of time in which to bring your suit.** You cannot afford to lose that opportunity simply because you did not contact a lawyer in time.

But even when you have plenty of time before the statute of limitations runs, you cannot afford to wait to contact a lawyer. I have so many things I want to tell a client at the beginning of the case – things they will miss if they come to me late in the game.

I want to talk about what the key evidence will be, and how we can make sure it doesn't get destroyed or gone before we can file a lawsuit. I want to ask about witnesses. In some cases, I may need to look at the scene. In cases that involve medical care, I may need to understand why you need the care you are receiving.

People sometimes call me and say, "I don't know if I need a lawyer." Your legal rights are at least as serious as your injury. If you were not really hurt, and your car needed minimal repairs, then maybe you don't need a lawyer. But if you were in the hospital, had

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multiple surgeries, and are trying to figure out how to pay tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical bills – then you cannot seriously be questioning whether you need an attorney.

If you have been seriously injured, then take your injury seriously. Don't try to handle things yourself, and don't hire somebody from the phone book or a billboard.

If you found out you had brain cancer, then sure, you could try to research all of the issues yourself. Armed with reams of information from WebMD, you could try to understand your illness, and what treatments you needed. You could try to figure out what chemotherapy drugs you needed, and then try to buy them from overseas vendors. You could shave your hair and then draw diagrams and arrows on the top of your head, and ask your brother-in-law to follow them as he performs surgery on you.

But would you ever, in a million years, do that?

Get real! Do yourself a favor -- get a real lawyer.

I'm reasonably bright, but when it comes to doing my taxes, I hire an accountant. Sure, if I wanted to, I could sit down and figure a lot of it out. But why would I do that? I figure I went to law school to be a lawyer. My accountant went to school to be an accountant. I'll do what I'm good at, and I'll let him do what he's good at. You should think that same way when you think about whether to hire a lawyer.

## **Chapter 5**

### **Don't Settle Just Part of Your Suit**

The client sat down across from me. “I’ve settled with the insurance company for the driver, who had a very small policy,” she said. “But I need help with my own insurance company. I had a large uninsured motorist policy that will cover all my medical expenses.”

I felt a cold chill. “Can I see the agreement you signed with the insurance company for the driver?” I asked, knowing what I would see, but still hoping I would not. Sure enough, in the agreement she had waived her claim against her own insurance company. The language was tricky, artfully drafted by the insurance company’s lawyer – and it meant that there was absolutely nothing I could do to help her. She had lost the main part of her case because she had tried to settle one smaller part of the case by herself, without contacting a lawyer.

Clients sometimes think that they can settle with one insurance company, or one defendant, and leave the harder defendant to a lawyer.

But cases are like towers made out of blocks– if you pull a block out of the bottom, the whole tower may fall. Your case has to be evaluated as a whole. You can’t simply extract one piece from the case, settle it, and assume the rest of the case will be unaffected. If you want a lawyer to help you with the case, the lawyer will need to evaluate the entire case. When you try to settle part of your case, you are trying to be your own lawyer. Don’t do it!

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Lawyers tell each other, “He who is his own lawyer, hath a fool for a lawyer.” Lawyers say that about themselves, even though they have been spent years learning about the legal system. If lawyers think they cannot -- and should not -- represent themselves, then surely lay people *who have never even been taught the legal system* ought to be even more cautious.

The insurance company is represented by well-trained lawyers who have spent years learning and navigating the legal system. In short, they know what they are doing. Do you? If you have no training whatsoever in how to navigate the legal system, how can you hope to compete with a group of lawyers who have spent years learning the ins and outs of a complicated system?

When you try to represent yourself and settle one part of a case, you are impacting every other decision that is going to get made about the case. And the worst part of all is that you do not even know what decisions you are impacting.

You may wind up making decisions you never intended to make, and probably never even knew you were making. Just like the woman who came to my office, you might accidentally waive your rights and claims. You might promise to reimburse bills from certain medical providers or repay medical insurance companies – when the law says you should not have had to repay them at all.

If you want a lawyer to handle part of the case, then get a lawyer to handle the whole case. Do yourself a favor -- get counsel before you act, not afterwards.

## **Chapter 6**

### **Write Down the Names of Witnesses and Any Key Information about the Wreck Right Away**

My client had been in a car wreck. She remembered clearly that while she had been waiting for the police to come, a woman had come over to talk to her. “The woman told me that she saw the whole wreck and it was not my fault. She said I had the green light,” my client explained.

“Great!” I said. “That’s exactly the sort of information that will help me put together your case. Now, what was her name?”

“Her name was . . . ,” and the client sat and thought a minute. “Melinda. Or maybe Melanie. I think it started with an ‘M’. Or maybe it was an ‘N.’ Nancy? No, that’s not it.” She sat and pondered a while longer. Finally, she said, “I just don’t remember.”

And who could blame her? A year had passed since the wreck, and she had been in and out of back surgery. She had been busy and preoccupied. Her mind had moved on to other things, like doctors’ appointments, and trying to get better. We never did find the witness whose testimony would have been so helpful.

If the client had come to me earlier, I would have told her *to write down the name of the witness*. Right after the incident, you still remember the color of the car that was parked at the red light across from you, what the defendant said at the scene, and dozens of other small details. While that information remains fresh in your

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mind, write it down to give to your attorney. Once you have written it down, your mind is then free to focus on the things ahead of you – like surgery, therapy, and figuring out how to take care of your family while you are sick.

Everybody forgets things, and after you have been through a traumatic event, you have a great deal on your mind. You want to free up your mind to focus on doctors, surgery, therapy, work excuses, and all the work of getting better.

When you are writing down the facts about what happened, think very broadly. For example, while you are writing down the names of witnesses, think beyond the moment the car wreck occurred. Remember the person who visited you in the hospital, and the friend who sat in the waiting room with your wife while you were in surgery. “Scene witnesses”, who saw some portion of the actual incident, are important. But “lay witnesses”, the people who know you and your family, and who can see how things have changed for all of you since your injury, are also important. These are the people who can tell the jury about what the serious injuries **really** have meant to you.

Also, try to think beyond witnesses, to all the facts about what happened at the scene – and afterwards. Ask your spouse and your other family members to write down the things they remember. Collectively, you can come up with a pretty good list of the witnesses who will be able to make your case.

## **Chapter 7**

### **Keep a Record of Your Damages**

If somebody offered you a check and said, “All you have to do to earn this check is agree to be seriously injured” – you would think they were crazy. You would adamantly refuse.

If anybody had bothered to ask you *before* you were seriously injured, you would have said emphatically that you didn't want to be injured in the first place. You would have said you did not want a permanent rod in your leg, or to have back and neck pain for the rest of your life. You would have insisted you wanted to work, not sit at home feeling miserable and isolated. And above all, you would have told them in no uncertain terms that you would never want to put your family through the living hell they have just endured.

In our justice system, we talk about “making people whole.” But in the end our justice system does nothing of the sort. At best, a lawsuit can give you money to compensate you for the expenses and medical bills you have had, and the pain and suffering you have endured. The very most you can get is fair compensation for what has happened to you. You will not get better, and try as you might, you will not go back in time. You still will be injured, you still will have pain, and your family still will be suffering from the effects of losing you for so long a time.

Given that the justice system can only give you money – not health – you have a very important job. You have to track all the things that make you spend money or lose money.

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For example, if you must miss work, write down the all of the dates that you are out. If you miss part of a day to go to a doctor's appointment, write that down.

If you have to hire someone to do something you normally would do (*e.g.*, clean the house, mow the lawn, or take the kids to school), write down the name of the person you hired, when you hired them, and how much you paid the person. If you have to take a taxi to the doctor's office because you cannot drive, save your bills.

You are the #1 best person to be able to note and describe what monetary losses you have had. No lawyer or paralegal can go back and recreate the record as well as you could write it down in the first place.

And, while writing down the monetary expenditures will be the most important part of your job, you also will need to think about what your other damages are. Did you have trouble doing yardwork, so that the weeds nearly overtook your yard? Did your husband have to spend hours caring for the children, and still have to hold down a full-time job, because you could not be there to help him? Did you mom take over the cooking and the childcare, because you could not afford to pay someone to do it? Regardless of whether these things involve the actual exchange of cash, all of these things are part of your damages.

## **Chapter 8**

### **Keep Your Doctor's Appointments**

My client had broken one of the vertebrae in his back. No one could seriously question whether he had been hurt.

On the other hand, he did not seem to be much concerned about making himself better. Over and over the medical records said, "Patient did not show up for appointment." He had missed doctor's appointments, X-rays, physical therapy sessions, and failed to fill prescriptions. I had to tell the client he had torpedoed his own case; it was worth way less than it should have been.

Why? A jury is bound to think that a client who does not bother to show up for his appointments, must not be all that sick. A client who doesn't bother to do his physical therapy exercises between appointments, probably would not have been benefitted all that much from physical therapy in the first place. And a man who did not even worry about filling his pain pill prescription, really must not have been in that much pain in the first place.

The client had made a huge impact on the jury he had never even met, just because he had not bothered to try to make himself better. Juries want to compensate plaintiffs who have done all in their power to overcome terrible circumstances – but not plaintiffs who have considered dozens of things more important than their own health.

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Furthermore, the client had seriously injured his relationship with his medical providers. Doctors, nurses and physical therapists want to help people who are seriously injured, but not people who do not bother to show up and find out how to get better, much less try to get better.

Like the medical providers, everyone involved in the lawsuit – from the jury, to the insurance company's lawyer, to your own lawyer – takes his or her cue about how serious your injury is **from you**. They will not be one whit more serious about your injury than you are. And the number one way they will gauge how serious you are about your injury is by how hard you work to get better.

Keeping your medical appointments matters to your doctor, of course. As a simple courtesy, you should keep all of the appointments you have made with your medical providers. If you must miss an appointment for a very good reason, give the doctor or therapist plenty of notice and be sure to reschedule. If you don't bother to show up at doctors' appointments, everyone – including the jury who will judge your case -- will wonder whether you really are all that ill, given that you do not seem to be all that concerned about getting better.

I am completely aware that it is unfair to assume that if you do not show up for an appointment, you must not be all that sick. You live in the real world, where you wake up too sick to move, where kids get sick and need attention, where families have crises that cannot wait, and where doctors' schedules can be unclear and arbitrary.

Even so, one of the easiest ways you can “prove” yourself to the jury is by showing that you really, really want to get better, and that

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nothing will stand in your way. You want the jury to know that you have done and will continue to do all you can to progress as fast as is humanly possible.

## **Chapter 9**

### **Treat All the Medical Professionals with Whom You Come in Contact with the Utmost Respect**

I will never forget the product liability client who came in to me a few years ago. He had horrible injuries from a defective product. I have always wondered whether he had head injuries that made it difficult for him to think clearly and act logically.

But in the end, he absolutely killed his own case. He was – like every injured plaintiff in the world – completely dependent on the testimony of his doctors, who would say that he was hurt, and how he got hurt.

But even though he desperately needed the testimony of his doctors, nurses and therapists, they were not going to do anything to help him if they could do anything to avoid it.

He had been utterly and inexcusably offensive to them. The medical records had statements about how he had screamed at the staff, and insulted the doctor. They even had had to call the local police to have him removed from their offices because he had been so threatening. He had threatened the receptionist, thrown punches at the nurses, and yelled obscenities at the doctor. In short, the people whose testimony he needed the most had every reason to hate him.

These doctors and nurses were professionals. They would try to put aside their personal feelings to talk about the medical facts. But

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they were completely and totally human, and as humans, they were never going to be able to advocate for my client.

I had to sit with the client and explain that he had alienated the people whose testimony was critical to his case. He had so offended and incensed the medical professionals that were helping him that they had no reason to help and frankly every reason to hurt his case. The records – which would be completely available to the defendant product manufacturer – talked endlessly about how rude and violent he had been in the doctors' offices. The police records, which talked about how he had kicked and insulted the police officers called to remove him from the premises of the medical offices, put the nail in the coffin of his lawsuit.

Professionals though these medical providers were, they were still human, and my client had done all in his power to treat them disrespectfully and inhumanely.

If you have spent any time in the medical system, or helped a loved one navigate the medical channels, you know that the system can be degrading and dehumanizing. You spend hours of time that is valuable to you waiting for medical professionals who think their time is far more important than yours. You leave repeated messages with the office because you need simple answers and help – but you wait in vain for a call back to give you the answers you need. You suffer pokes, pricks, shots and even surgery – and then wait for weeks to get answers about what the trouble all meant.

But if you pull the medical professionals apart, and evaluate them one by one, you will find that the vast majority really do care. The doctors went to medical school because they wanted to help sick

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and injured people. The nurses struggled through school and then endured long hours, compounded by disrespect, to serve people who all too often were ungrateful and unkind. Surely the medical profession has people who are surly, incompetent and unfeeling – but just as surely, the vast majority of medical professionals are none of those things.

So treat all of those medical personnel – the good, the bad, the competent and the incompetent – well. Remember they are people, and that most of them really want to help. And when you remember to treat them with that sort of respect, they will remember to treat you kindly and they will want to help you, both medically and legally, to resolve the issues that you are facing because of your injury. They won't lie, and they won't make up facts for you, but nor will they want to hold back or avoid giving you the help you need.

## **Chapter 10**

### **Don't Miss More Work than You Truly Need To**

When you are first injured, you probably will not be able to work. But as soon as you possibly can return to work, you should.

Perhaps at first blush it might seem like a lawyer would not give you that advice. After all, wouldn't your case be worth more if you were out of work for a long time, and had a lot of lost wages?

It may seem counterintuitive, but the truth is that your case will be worth less – not more – if you stay out of work when you do not need to.

I am going to tell you stories of two different clients. Before I tell you the first story, let me throw a caution in first. **If the doctor tells you to stay out of work – STAY OUT OF WORK!** The last thing you need is to reinjure the spot where you have just had surgery.

With that caution, I am going to tell you about two clients.

The first client probably should have stayed out of work much longer than she did, but she kept going. I am not telling you this story to suggest that you go back to work when you are hurt. It would be foolish to do that. I am telling you this story so that you will understand why it is important to go back to work when you are able to go.

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The client had come to my office after she had been in a very bad car accident. I asked her about when she had gone back to work, and she said that she had started working again almost as soon as she got out of the hospital. Looking at her medical bills and records, I was astonished that someone so badly injured had not missed more work.

I asked her how she had managed to keep working, and she explained, "I just couldn't afford to miss work. I've got two little kids to feed, and my husband is out of work. I hurt every day, but it doesn't matter how I feel, I have to work."

Now, I would **never** have advised her to go back to work when she clearly had no business being there yet. If she had gotten hurt again, the insurance company would have argued that it was her own fault for disregarding the doctor's orders.

But when she told me why she had gone back, I knew that the jury would really like my client. Juries like plaintiffs who are trying very hard to get better, and to get on with their lives. By contrast, juries can smell exaggeration a mile away – and they will penalize it by giving the plaintiff a lower award.

I also will tell you a story about a potential client who was at the opposite extreme of the lady I have just told you about. This other client deliberately chose not to work when he could have done so. In fact, his doctor wrote in the client's medical records that the client was fully able to work, that the doctor had told him to work, and that the client was exaggerating his symptoms to miss work. In my more than twenty years of looking at clients' medical records, I have never seen another medical record like that one. I was not about to

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represent someone who was exaggerating his injuries, and I told the client I would not be able to accept his case.

These two stories illustrate an important point. You should never go back to work until you are healed and the doctor says you can go back to work. **But when you can go back to work, do.** The jury and your doctors will respect you for doing your best in a difficult situation.

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## **Conclusion**

Hopefully these tips will help you avoid the most common errors that destroy personal injury cases. But please remember that these tips cannot replace your getting legal counsel and advice about your specific case from your own lawyer.

**Nervous about your case?** Don't be. Email us or give us a call today if **we can help you.**

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**About the Author, Lee Wallace**



Lee Wallace is the past President of the Product Liability Section of the Georgia Bar and the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers. She graduated first in her class from Vanderbilt University, and *cum laude* from Harvard Law School. She has more than twenty years of experience practicing law, and has handled cases in twenty states around the country.

Lee's peers have named her one of Georgia's Top 100 Lawyers, and have selected her as a Georgia SuperLawyer every year since the poll began. She has been named one of Georgia's Top 100 Trial Lawyers, and Georgia Trend magazine called her one of "Georgia's Legal Elite."

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