

PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY

Privacy Checklist for Personal Injury Claims

Do you have a personal injury claim against your place of employment, a business or an individual? Protect your privacy and the integrity of your personal injury claim during the insurance claim investigation process with these simple tips.

Manage your online privacy

- Enable privacy controls on social media
- Use secure databases and apps
- Google search yourself and evaluate what is found

Whether it is your social media accounts, financial accounts or professional groups, you need to make sure what you broadcast is only seen by the individuals or entities of your choosing. Ensure that websites you use for finances or personal information have secure certificates and HTTPS domains.

Be smart with insurance claims

The more claims you file, whether they are workers' compensation claims or otherwise, the more red flags that may be raised about the legitimacy of your claim. While some people seem to be unlucky and are the victim of multiple accidents that are entirely not their fault, there are some people who file multiple unmeritorious claims and that will draw the attention of the claims adjuster, even if that claim is legitimate.

Be cautious with social media use

- Make sure your privacy settings are turned on and as restrictive as they can be on all social media sites.
- If you are injured, do not post photos on social media.
- Do not reveal any information about your claim.
- Refrain from posting anything about your finances.

If you are involved in an ongoing investigation it is in your best interest to avoid posting photos or updates on social media sites. Consider anything you post as fair game to insurance companies and be aware that what you post could negatively affect your claim.

Be transparent and honest

Always check first with your personal injury attorney before answering any questions. If interviewed:

- Disclose any history of injury
- Be honest in all investigative inquiries: do not embellish on any points, including on the seriousness of your injuries
- Be transparent about the events of your accident and do not exaggerate

Knowing that insurance companies can access your financial and personal information, be transparent and fully disclose any past or current problems to your personal injury attorney. They can help you understand what information may affect the outcome of your claim, and more importantly, they can provide advice about how to proceed with your case.

Never give out your social security number

In most instances, there is no reason to provide anyone with your social security number. There are two major exceptions: the worker's compensation cases, or cases that involve Medicare insurance. Consult with your lawyer before providing any social security information.

Consult regularly with your lawyer

If you have any questions about the insurance investigation process, be sure to talk with your lawyer. If you are unsure about any step in the investigation or something doesn't seem right, call your lawyer.

Murphy & Prachthauser

Good Lawyers, *Who Help People*