

THE **WASHINGTON** AUTO ACCIDENT GUIDE

*An In-Depth Insiders Guide To Auto Accident Claims In
Washington And How To Maximize The Outcomes Of
Your Claim*



CHONG H. YE

PART 2

DISCLAIMER

BY CHONG H. YE, ESQ

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Designed and Published by:

CHONG H. YE

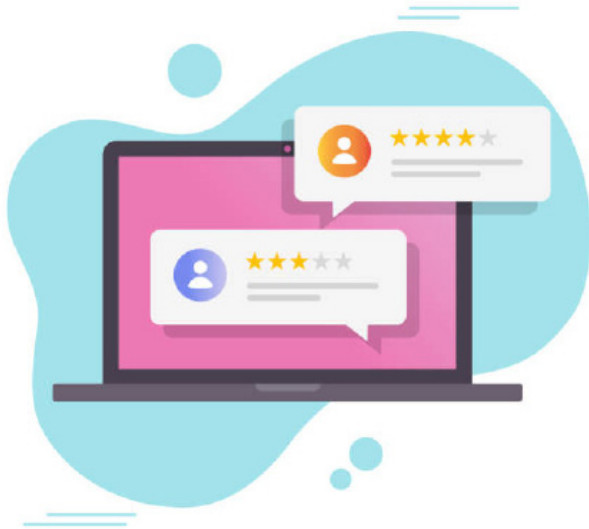
The Ye Law Firm, Inc. P.S.

31919 1st Avenue South, Suite 104

Federal Way, WA 98003 (235) 946-
0577

TheYeLawFirm.com

Client TESTIMONIALS



Before I met Mr. Ye, I had a life of promise, goals, aspirations, and stability.

Also before my accident, I was going to church, being a spiritual person, and afterwards by not being able to attend on a regular basis precipitated me to becoming homeless, loss of wages and livelihood. Just prior to this accident my husband passed away leaving me little and no funds and having me depend on Public Assistance and State Aid.

Little did I know that by choosing The Ye Law Firm what I received was a new lease on life, new direction with employment and positive outlook with a sense of direction.

The Ye Law Firm has been fighting Pierce Transit, the largest transit company in the Northwest and in the State of Washington. Mr. Ye was not only determined to see justice served, but also helped renew my faith in a sense of self-worth and direction with attainable goals.

I now have a great job at a hospital and I graduated from Highline Community College with an Associated Degree in Business Administration.

Upon arriving at The Ye Law Firm, I had zero dollars to speak of and Mr. Ye took my case not knowing that he would have such an uphill battle and taking an enormous risk and amount of time but did so with the pursuit of justice in mind.

I was a passenger on Pierce Transit whose driver ran a red light in downtown Seattle, which ultimately resulted in an oncoming yellow cab T-boning the bus. I was seated right above where the cab hit the bus and the image of the scene still haunts me today. Luckily, by hiring The Ye Law Firm, I was able to receive compensation for my injury and I have a renewed self-worth and life.

I have been truly blessed in knowing that I was led and spiritually directed to The Ye Law Firm and received more than I could ever imagined. And to hear of other successful outcomes of The Ye Law Firm contact Mr. Ye at The Ye Law Firm. - **Tessie**

My wife and I highly recommend The Ye Law Firm to those who are involved in car accidents. He and his staff are knowledgeable and were readily available to answer our questions whenever questions arose when dealing with insurance companies and later on about her medical treatments. Since this was our first accident, we didn't know what to expect, but we realize why having an attorney represent the injured is so important. His office took the stress out of dealing with auto accidents. Furthermore, we were very happy with how the case was later resolved. - **Steve**

Customer service was excellent! Professional attitude, Mr. Ye was in no rush, he was very patient, nice and consistent. I had an impression that he genuinely wanted to help me, instead of trying to rush me into hiring him. I appreciate him. - **Simon**

For sure, the best lawyer in Washington state, me and my wife, got in a car accident on a Saturday. By Sunday, he was already helping us, and we didn't have to worry about anything. Every time I had a question, they responded right the way! And I was really happy about the settlement! Thank you so much!!!! - **Lucas**

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COMMON CAR ACCIDENT INJURIES

WHEN SHOULD I SEE A DOCTOR?

Injuries sustained in a pedestrian, bicycle, motorcycle, car, bus, or truck accident can vary greatly in severity and recovery time. Collisions that result in minor injuries including cuts, bruises, or soreness usually do not necessitate medical treatment. There is no such thing as a “minor” accident, even though there are minor injuries. Accidents that seem to be minor can result in some of the most serious injuries.

No matter how minor an accident seems to be, you should still see a doctor right away to ensure you are not injured.

WHIPLASH AND NECK INJURIES

Whiplash injuries to the spine, back, and neck are one of the most common and severe forms of accident injuries. When a vehicle jolts forward or slows when it collides with you, the body does not, resulting in a dangerous whipping motion. Soft tissue strain in the neck and back can cause intense pain, loss of mobility, and even permanent paralysis in some cases.

Since they catch people off guard, low-speed, low-impact rear-end collisions have the greatest chance of causing serious neck injuries. Although the majority of whiplash injuries recover within a few weeks, some people experience chronic neck and back pain that requires long-term care.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN DAMAGE

Even a minor head injury can result in permanent brain damage with long-term effects. If you think you hit your head in an accident, notify the paramedics right away so they can check for symptoms of a concussion or swelling. Sometimes, the person injured will not notice any effects or signs of head trauma for a period of time, referred to as the "lucid interval." Both cases of head injuries need immediate medical attention.

LACERATIONS (CUTS)

Broken glass, ripped metal, and other debris floating around inside a vehicle are common causes of minor and severe cuts in car accidents. The majority of lacerations heal on their own and only require a few stitches; however, deep cuts can cause severe blood loss and require surgery.

BROKEN BONES

When an accident is severe enough to break bones, the patients must seek medical care right away. In most cases, a doctor may apply a cast to the injury, however more serious breaks or compound fractures can necessitate surgery. Victims may need physical therapy after the cast is removed in order to recover full range of motion.

INTERNAL INJURIES

Damage to the internal organ is one of the most dangerous forms of car accident injuries because it is not always immediately apparent. Internal injuries can occur when your body collides with an object, such as the steering wheel, or when you are struck by flying debris.

WRONGFUL DEATH

Fatality is, without a doubt, the worst-case scenario in a car accident. While any preventable death is tragic, "wrongful death" is a legal term that applies to when a person is killed because of another person's negligence or misbehavior, such as drunk, careless, or distracted driving.

Surviving family members could include a spouse or children (or parents and siblings if there is not a spouse or children) can file a lawsuit. Some of the costs or expenses the family members typically ask for reimbursement and compensation include funeral costs, medical bills, loss of support, future inheritance, and education expenses for underage children.

DOCTORS AND OTHER MEDICAL PROVIDERS

If you have been seriously injured for the first time, you may meet doctors you have never heard of before. The following are some of the medical specialists personal injury victims are most likely to encounter:

Acupuncture involves the insertion of very thin needles through your skin at strategic points on your body. A key component of traditional Chinese medicine, acupuncture is most commonly used to treat pain.

An **anesthesiologist** administers drugs to provide pain relief during surgery. Some anesthesiologists also treat chronic pain. Anesthesiologists who treat pain are also sometimes called specialists in **pain management**.

A **burn specialist** is exactly what it sounds like — someone who cares for patients with severe burns.

Chiropractors emphasize the conservative management of the neuromusculoskeletal system without the use of medicines or surgery, with special emphasis on the spine. Back and neck pain are the specialties of chiropractic.

A **dermatologist** handles diseases and injuries to the skin, including burns.

A **doctor of emergency medicine** usually works in an emergency room. This doctor may have been the first doctor to treat you after the accident.



The doctor you most likely see regularly is probably a **family practice** or **general practice doctor**. Depending on your injuries, he or she might take an active part in your care or refer you to a specialist.

A **neurologist** treats injuries and abnormalities of the nervous system, which includes the brain and spinal cord. This is the doctor you will see if you have a brain or spinal injury. If you need surgery, you might also see a **neurosurgeon** or **spinal surgeon**.

An **orthopedic doctor** treats injuries to the bones, muscles and joints, sometimes including amputations, as well as broken bones.

A doctor who treats problems with joints is a **rheumatologist**.

For accident victims, doctors of **plastic surgery**, **reconstructive surgery**, or **cosmetic surgery** work to correct damage to the body or unsightly scars, and to restore functions or prevent loss of functions.

Physical therapists and doctors of **physical medicine** and **rehabilitation** work with injury victims to restore movement or function to areas affected by an injury. This sometimes includes functions that you might not think of as physical, like brushing your teeth or writing.

Physical therapists help injured or ill people improve movement and manage pain. They are often an important part of preventive care, rehabilitation, and treatment for patients with chronic conditions, illnesses, or injuries.

Psychiatrists handle mental health issues, including emotional injuries caused by accidents.

Specialists in other specific parts of the body include **nephrologists** (kidneys), **hepatologists** (liver), **gastroenterologists** (the digestive system), **cardiologists** (heart), **pulmonary specialists** (lungs) and **podiatrists** (feet and ankles).



COMMON MEDICAL TESTS



If you have an internal injury, such as one to the spine, brain, or internal organs, your doctor can request that you undergo one of these tests. This is beneficial because the more knowledge you have about your injuries, the easier it will be to start the healing process. This would also make proving your injury simpler for your attorney. You could take the following tests:

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X-rays are the radiation scans that we are all acquainted with; if you have your wisdom teeth out, you most likely had one taken at the dentist. They are best for diagnosing bone injuries and cannot be used to diagnose soft tissue injuries because they display bony structures.

A CT scan, also known as a CAT scan, is a form of computerized tomography scan. A CT scan uses a device to combine several X-rays taken in a circle around the same point to provide a better image than one X-ray could provide alone. If your physicians suspect you have an injury to your chest or abdomen, or numerous fractures in your hand or foot, a CT scan is likely to be required.

Magnetic resonance imaging is abbreviated as **MRI**. If you have an MRI, you will be asked to lie down in a long tube that uses safe magnetic radiation to examine your soft tissues. They can even ask you to drink or get an injection of a drug that helps them see certain tissues better. If your doctor suspects a brain or spinal cord injury, you might be asked to take this examination. You can't use this technology if you have a pacemaker or other metal embedded in your body because it uses magnets.

A **PET** scan is often used in conjunction with a CT scan. A PET scan involves injecting a harmless material into the patient that the scanner can detect using radioactivity. PET scans, unlike CT scans, will reveal the body's metabolic activity rather than just its structures. They create three-dimensional pictures as well.

You've probably heard of an **ultrasound** if you know someone who has recently had a birth. An ultrasound test creates an image by using high-frequency sound waves that bounce off internal body structures. Although the image it creates is not as accurate as images created by other approaches, it could be the better option for people with certain conditions because it does not use radiation. In addition, it is less costly than an MRI. Internal organs, connective tissue, bones, blood vessels, and eyes are all examined with it.

If your doctors suspect you have a nerve injury, you might be asked to undergo a **nerve conduction scan**, which is an electrical test that may diagnose nerve problems. One electrode is placed over the nerve being examined, while the other is placed in the nervous system's "downstream" region. The pace at which electricity travels between them decides whether or not nerve damage occurs.

The electrical current generated by nerve responses when they are in motion is measured by an **electromyograph (EMG)**. Electromyograph (EMG) may be used to help people who have nerve damage, muscle weakness, or illnesses that trigger them. Doctors use EMG to measure the electrical impulses or the muscles by either inserting a thin needle into the muscle being measured or placing an electrode over the region.

An **endoscopy** is a procedure that involves inserting a flexible tube with a light and a camera into natural openings in your body, such as the throat. This is most often associated with stomach or colon examinations, but it can be applied to any region with a natural opening.

Functional MRI is a noninvasive diagnostic examination that gauges small changes in blood circulation as a person performs tasks while in the MRI scanner. It discovers the brain at work (e.g., talking or moving). It has a benefit over various other imaging research studies that concentrate just on the structure of the brain. **Diffusion tensor imaging (DTI)** identifies the white matter fibers that connect various parts of the brain.



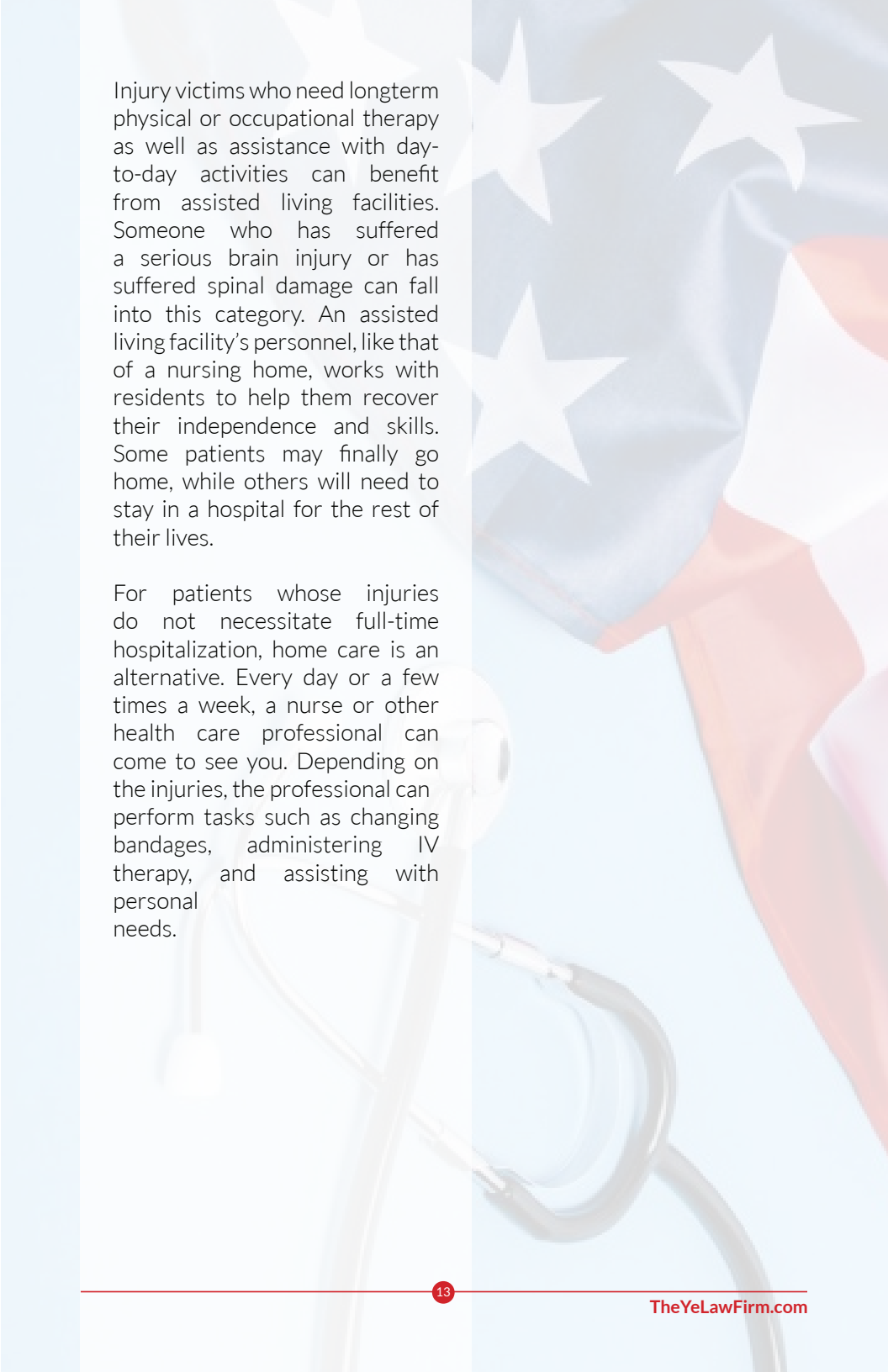
HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

If you are seriously injured, you might be admitted to a medical center that is more advanced than the hospitals we are all familiar with. If you need this type of treatment, you will be moved from your current hospital to one of the following facilities:

Patients who have suffered a sudden and severe physical injury are taken to a trauma center. They are graded from Level I to IV, with Level I facilities housing the most severe cases. Patients outside of major cities may have to be airlifted to one because they are costly to operate.

A rehabilitation center is a place where people go to get treatment to reestablish or relearn skills they've lost due to a severe injury. Occupational therapy can concentrate on relearning everyday activities or finding ways to perform them despite a new impairment, while physical therapy helps with mobility or prevents loss of movement.

Patients with severe burns are treated at burn centers. They not only treat burn burns, but also collaborate with nurses, social workers, psychiatrists, and other non-traditional medical practitioners to help people return to normal life.

The background of the page is a composite image. On the left side, there is a close-up, slightly out-of-focus view of a silver stethoscope. On the right side, there is a stylized, semi-transparent American flag with white stars on a blue field and red and white stripes. The overall color palette is light and professional.

Injury victims who need long-term physical or occupational therapy as well as assistance with day-to-day activities can benefit from assisted living facilities. Someone who has suffered a serious brain injury or has suffered spinal damage can fall into this category. An assisted living facility's personnel, like that of a nursing home, works with residents to help them recover their independence and skills. Some patients may finally go home, while others will need to stay in a hospital for the rest of their lives.

For patients whose injuries do not necessitate full-time hospitalization, home care is an alternative. Every day or a few times a week, a nurse or other health care professional can come to see you. Depending on the injuries, the professional can perform tasks such as changing bandages, administering IV therapy, and assisting with personal needs.

WHAT HAPPENS IN A TYPICAL PERSONAL

INJURY LAWSUIT?

The insurance company has refused to make a reasonable offer of settlement on your injury claim. Your attorney has filed suit on your behalf in a Washington state court. Your attorney has filed suit against the responsible people and their insurance companies with a document called a “Summons and Complaint.”

The defendants and their insurance companies in turn hire attorneys to represent them and come back with a document called an “Answer.”

The Answer responds to the claims made in the Complaint and to some extent indicates what issues your attorney is going to fight. Usually at this stage of a lawsuit, the defense attorneys send written questions called “Interrogatories,” which include detailed questions covering your personal history, employment history, medical history, the injuries you claim, a list of your medical bills, etc. You will answer them with your attorney.

Your attorney may also send Interrogatories to the defendants, and they will go through the same process.

The next step involves “discovery depositions” of you and the defendants and any key witnesses. You are under oath, and the attorneys have the opportunity to ask questions. Your attorney will prepare you for the deposition.

One purpose of a deposition is to find out what a person would say at trial. Another is



to find out information that was not covered in the interrogatories. A third purpose is to determine how you will be perceived by the jury – will they like or dislike you.

After a deposition the defendant may choose to send you to a doctor of his choice for a defense medical examination. This doctor is hired by the insurance company to examine you, write a report and, if need be, testify at trial. This doctor is not on your side and is not going to treat you. His task is to find things that will help the defendant's insurance company. Your attorney will prepare you for the independent examination.

The attorneys may then elect to depose the various doctors and other experts involved in the case if there are questions about what a doctor or engineer would testify to at trial. This happens frequently, but not always.

The defense attorney usually sends a detailed report to the insurance company, and the insurance company decides what amount of money it is offering to settle your case. There may be direct negotiations between the defense attorney and your attorney.

What often happens is the parties agree to a mediation in which the two sides sit down with a neutral third party whose job it is to try to settle the case. The mediator, however, cannot compel either party to make or accept an offer.

If the case does not settle, your attorney will prepare for trial. Your attorney will go through the questions you will be asked at trial and try to give you an idea of the questions you will face on cross-examination. If a witness or a doctor is unable to testify on your behalf, your attorney will arrange to take an "evidentiary deposition" that can be either read or shown to the jury during trial.





Your attorney will also compile exhibits including photographs or lists of expenses, prepare other witnesses and, if needed, issue subpoenas ordering those witnesses to show up and testify.

Trial proceedings follow a pretty strict order. The first order of business is selecting a jury, a process known as voir dire. The judge first asks if any in the jury pool cannot sit through the trial and decides whom to dismiss. Attorneys for both sides are allowed to ask questions of each potential juror and make their choices. The trial begins after the jury is picked and seated.

Attorneys for each side give opening statements which outline what they expect to prove. The next phase involves testimony, in which you and other witnesses testify under oath and the facts and other witness accounts of the case from both sides are laid before the jury. As plaintiff, you present your case first, and the defense follows. Each witness can be subject to both direct examination and cross-examination.

Finally, attorneys for each side give closing arguments outlining their view of the evidence, and how the jury should decide. The judge gives the jury written instructions on relevant law to guide them in their deliberations. The jury then retires to reach a verdict.

The verdict answers the questions of who is at fault and how much money should be awarded for various portions of your claim. The judge reads the verdict in open court.

WHAT HAPPENS IN AN ARBITRATION?



Arbitration is an alternate form of litigation sometimes used for personal injury cases. In Washington State, arbitration is mandatory when the claim for injury is \$100,000 or less.

There are some differences between arbitration and jury trial. For instance, if your case is going to trial it would most likely last two or more days, depending on the number of exhibits and witnesses presented. Arbitration is much shorter and will typically be resolved within one day.

In a jury trial, the judge will referee the jury, and the jury decides the outcome of your case. In contrast, the arbitrator makes all of the decisions about your case, including compensation.

In Washington, if your case goes to a jury trial, a trial judge is automatically assigned. If a car accident case is arbitrated, you and your attorney are involved in selecting the arbitrator, most of whom are experienced personal injury attorneys or retired judges.

Trials are at the courthouse in the county in which you file the claim. They are open to the public, recorded, and typically several court staff members attend. Personal injury arbitrations are not recorded and are usually held in a private conference room accessible only to those directly involved in the case. The results of a jury trial are binding, but a legal error can result in an appeal to a higher court. Arbitrations, however, can be either binding or non-binding depending on the case.

A non-binding arbitration allows the flexibility to file an appeal and have the case retried before a jury.

Litigation in either venue is expensive, but arbitration can cost considerably less than a jury trial.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS

During an arbitration proceeding your attorney will be with you in the same room along with the insurance company's attorney. Both attorneys will sit at the conference table with the arbitrator at the head.

The arbitrator will introduce herself and go over the rules for the hearing. Witnesses for either side will be sworn in to tell the truth.

Both sides have the option of making an opening statement to present its case without interruption.

Your attorney will present your evidence first because you are the plaintiff and have the burden of making your case. Theoretically, the opposition doesn't have to say a word. You started the original personal injury claim, and it's up to you to prove its merit.

The insurance company's representative will most likely oppose your claim. It's good to remember that the company expects you will receive some compensation, but its goal is to minimize that amount.

Strict rules of evidence don't apply in arbitrations.

Hearsay is admissible but will likely be discounted by the arbitrator, so don't rely on it to support your case.

(Hearsay is a witness repeating someone else's statement; the person who actually made the statement must testify in person.)

After both sides have submitted evidence, the arbitrator will officially end the hearing. Once the hearing is closed and you leave the office, you won't be able to speak with the arbitrator again. Other than sending additional documents if requested, your case is over. The decision will be sent by mail or email to your attorney.

THE ARBITRATOR'S DECISION

Most decisions arrive within a week or two, and if you presented your case well, you should be satisfied with the result.





HOW MUCH **IS MY CASE WORTH?**

Each case is unique and deserves special attention. No two accidents are the same because circumstances vary – type of accident, extent of injuries, all the facts of each case are unique.

I think it's wrong to give you even a ballpark formula because determining the value is truly done on a case-by-case basis.

TRUST YOUR LAWYER TO INVESTIGATE THE VALUE OF YOUR CASE.

If a lawyer tells you right away how much your case may be worth, don't trust it. You could settle for less than you deserve or be promised an unrealistic amount. This goes for insurance companies, too - they may say they have their clients' best interests in mind, but in reality they want to settle your case for less than you deserve. Don't ever accept a quick settlement without investigating future medical bills, lost wages and other expenses.

The best way to maximize your interest is to work with an experienced attorney. An attorney will gather evidence, medical records, and witnesses to build your case to a value that accounts for all medical bills and lost wages, including those in the future.

FACTORS THAT DETERMINE THE VALUE OF YOUR CASE

There are many factors that determine if you have a case and what it's worth. Remember that every case is unique and the questions your attorney will ask you will be tailored to your specific situation. Here are some basic questions most car accident lawyers will likely ask:

1. Was the accident part of your fault?
2. What are your injuries?
3. Did you need surgery or will you need it in the future?
4. Do you have unpaid medical expenses?
5. Have you lost the ability to work?
6. Do you have lost wages?
7. How long did it, or will it, take for you to recover?
8. Do you have permanent damage or scarring?
9. Were there any witnesses to your accident?
10. Does the at-fault driver have insurance to cover damages caused by the defendant?



3 SIMPLE RULES TO HELP YOUR PERSONAL INJURY

ATTORNEY GET YOU THE RESULTS YOU NEED!

We can't undo the injury, but we can help you understand your legal rights and fight for your needs!



01

RESPOND TO YOUR ATTORNEY

In the legal world, there are hard deadlines to meet, so it is important to always respond to your attorney when he or his office reaches out to you. An injury case can be dismissed if due dates are overlooked or missed.



02

ATTEND ALL MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

It is important to demonstrate you take the situation seriously and are trying to mitigate injuries. You show your commitment to your health by following doctors orders and attending each appointment suggested.



03

TELL THE {WHOLE} TRUTH

We need you to be completely honest with us and your doctors at all times! If the opposing side finds slight variations, your case could be compromised. It's not uncommon for investigators to follow up on details.



The Ye Law Firm, Inc. P. S.
Chong Hae Ye, Attorney at Law

P: (253) 946-0577 - Federal Way

P: (425) 322-0577 - Bellevue

(206) 578-7397 -Text

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT CONTINGENT

FEE AGREEMENTS?

An important thing to understand about personal injury attorneys is that they all cost about the same. Personal injury attorneys typically work for a contingency fee, which means the lawyer is paid a percentage of the settlement only if he or she wins your case. That percentage varies from firm to firm but is usually in the 33.3%-40% range. If the lawyer loses, he isn't paid.

PURPOSE OF CONTINGENT FEE

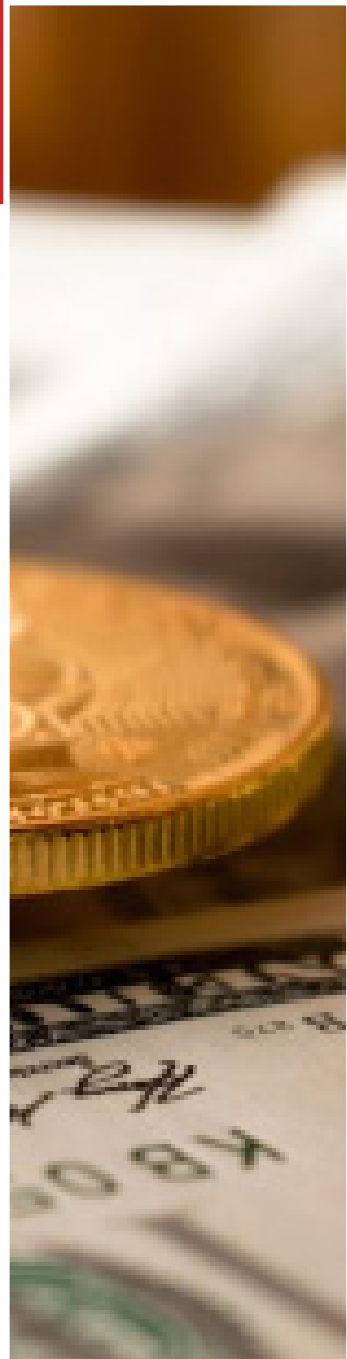
A contingent fee agreement means an injured person can retain an attorney to pursue the case without having to pay up-front or on a periodic basis as work progresses. Instead, the attorney gets a percentage in the end.

VALIDITY OF CONTINGENT FEE

Under the Washington State Bar Association's Rules for Professional Conduct, the contingent fee agreement must be in writing, and you as client must sign it. It must show how the settlement fee is to be determined plus the percentage claimed by the attorney, and whether all expenses are included. The agreement must clearly state the specific expenses for which the client will be liable.

COSTS UNDER CONTINGENT FEE

In a typical personal injury case, the attorney must pay for hospital records and other medical reports. Police and other reports cost money.



If the case does not settle, there will be a court filing fee and other litigation expenses including the cost of depositions, which are paid as the case goes along, often by the law office alone. These costs are out-of-pocket and may be outside the settlement fee. The language in the Professional Conduct rules requires that the agreement clarify which costs are included before or after calculation of the settlement fee.

WHAT PERCENTAGE?

As stated above, 33.33% or 40% is the usual fee taken against a settlement or award. That amount can vary depending on the amount of work and expertise required in a case. Under the rules, the contingent fee agreement specifies different percentages for settlement, trial or appeal.

CONTINGENT FEE: IN WHOSE INTEREST?

The best features of the contingent fee arrangement are that it allows those who could not otherwise afford an attorney to retain experienced counsel in their injury case; and (2) there is an incentive built into the agreement, where the attorney will not have a payday until the case is successfully completed. The amount of the payday depends on the quality of the final result. This works in favor of both attorney and client.

CONTINGENT FEE: GET A COPY

Every time you sign a document, anywhere, make sure you get a copy. This applies also to contingent fee agreements. The Washington State Bar's Rules of Professional Conduct require that an attorney provide his client with a copy of the contingent fee agreement, so do not hesitate to ask for a copy. Keep it in your records for future reference.



WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT CONTINGENT INJURY ATTORNEY?



Accidents and injuries do happen, and when they do, you'll need assistance. Who do you go to for help? An accident and injury lawyer licensed in the state of Washington.

Remember this: the question is never, "Should I hire an attorney?" but, "Who is the right personal injury attorney for me?"

HERE ARE STEPS TO FOLLOW:

Step 1: Proximity – Ideally, you want to find a personal injury attorney who practices close to where you live or work, because it is definitely easier to work with a lawyer located nearby for meetings and for court appearances. Communication with your lawyer is important and in person is almost always better.

Step 2: Experience – This is probably the most important, because one who can explain the entire process, knows the adjusters and how the insurance company tends to deal with your type of case is a huge asset. This is especially so in cases where an insurance company offers a low settlement amount and demands that you to sue them for more money. The companies know many people or attorneys do not want to go to trial, so finding a strong trial lawyer who has experience trying cases is crucial.

Step 3: Enthusiasm – This might not seem like an important reason to hire an attorney, but I would hesitate to hire a lawyer who doesn't seem eager or like the odds of winning my case. Lawyers often work harder on cases they find interesting or have a better chance of greater monetary gain on the win. This matters because the end result and the entire process will be much more enjoyable if your attorney is enthusiastic about your case.

Step 4: Case Management – Communication is really important, so you'll want to know how your attorney will go about managing your case and you.

You will want to know who will handle negotiations and court appearances. Will the attorney be your day-to-day contact? Will other attorneys or legal staff in the firm or experts work on your case? What work will they do? You will want to know whether the attorney will provide progress reports. If so, how frequently and what methods will be used? You will want to know what the best way to reach the attorney is and how quickly the attorney responds to calls.

Step 5: Legal Philosophy & Style – You want to make sure his approach to the law and his style of working with clients is comfortable for you. The most important thing to remember is: your attorney can't decide for you. This means your attorney should give you all the information so you can make an informed decision about your case. Again, communication is all important.

Step 6: Reviews – Reviews are important depending on their source and how you found your attorney. If a friend referred you who used him or her in a similar type of accident, you're taking less a risk. Word of mouth is the best form of advertising.

However, if your case is far different from your friend's or you found the personal injury attorney on a website, look for previous client reviews online on Google My Business and Avvo. Those reviews are far more valuable than endorsements from fellow lawyers, since those are often used by friends to promote each other's business. If multiple clients enjoyed their experience with the attorney who won their cases, you can feel more comfortable.

Step 7: Internet – The Internet can be a valuable resource for finding the names of attorneys in your state. Surprisingly, not every personal injury attorney's website contains valuable information and resources. Information provided by a personal injury attorney's website should help you do some preliminary research in aiding you in deciding how to proceed with your claim and answering several of your questions.

Step 8: Membership In Trial Lawyer Association – Most personal injury trial lawyers hold memberships at a local and national trial lawyers association, such as a local member of the Washington State Association for Justice and nationally, a membership of American Association for Justice. These organization provides extensive education and networking opportunities for trial lawyers.

Do not take this decision lightly, as the personal injury attorney you hire can often make or break the success of your case. Look for options, then compare and contrast those options. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

Remember, personal injury attorneys want your business, so use that to your advantage when searching for your best fit. Ask for more information and look online for reviews to help make the right decision for you.



CONCLUDING REMARKS

Whether you picked up this book for you or your family as you pursue your personal injury claim or a wrongful death claim for a family member, this book was meant to answer the pressing questions you may have on your journey to recovery from the negligence of another.

I hope this book has helped you answer the majority of the following questions:

- Am I entitled to compensation?
- How will we pay for the medical treatments, surgery, and hospitalization?
- Is it our insurance that pays, or is it the insurance of the person who caused the injury?
- What are we going to do about the lost wages?
- Will I have to testify if I go to arbitration or trial?
- Do I have to give the insurance company a written or recorded statement about what happened?
- Should I authorize the insurance company written permission to examine my medical records?
- Should I hire an attorney for this?
- How am I going to find the right lawyer?

I hope this book has given you the confidence to decide you and your family's personal injury and wrongful death case. Today's good lawyers can assist you in identifying problems, developing options for dealing with the problems, discussing alternative solutions, and finally deciding which resolution to pursue. You can participate in the decision-making if you understand the process and know how to ask the right questions. Hopefully, you will realize that pursuing personal injury and wrongful death claims is time-consuming and will not be resolved in a matter of days. Most claims take months or years to resolve.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chong H. Ye is the Founder and Senior Attorney of The Ye Law Firm, Inc. P.S. He is dedicated to helping those seriously injured by the negligence of others. He prides himself on being down-to-earth, reliable, accessible, but capable and comfortable winning a battle, whether via negotiations or court rooms.

Chong has handled thousands of car accident cases and claims ranging from minor injuries to catastrophic injuries/wrongful death. He aggressively advocates for his clients against insurance companies and has recovered tens of millions of dollars for his clients.

Chong emigrated from South Korea at the age of 10. Instilled with a sense of hard work and determination while growing up in the immigrant community in the Seattle-Tacoma area, Chong is a zealous advocate. He especially has a heart for those whose first language is not English. He has personally witnessed his own parents and other non-English speakers injured from collisions due to someone else's fault, he witnessed their attorneys not standing up for them but were much more interested in quick payouts by pressuring their clients to accept what amounted to be less than fair settlements, and thus he decided to fight for the voiceless and the vulnerable. Chong's mission is to represent the helpless fight against the Goliaths of the personal injury industry.

Chong lives with his wife and two children and in Northeast Tacoma. He is a member of the Lifeway Church in Federal Way. He sits on the board for Nest Mission, non-profit homeless mission organization helping the local homeless communities in Tacoma and Lynnwood.

Professionally, he is a member of the Washington State Bar Association. He is an Eagle member of the Washington State Association for Justice, a Washington plaintiff's trial lawyer association and holds membership with American Association for Justice. He a member of National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Trial Lawyer and The Ye Law Firm has been nominated as 10 Best Law Firms by the American Institute of Personal Injury Attorneys.

He earned his undergraduate degree at Bushnell University/University of Oregon. He completed his graduate studies at Dallas Theological Seminary. He earned his law degree at Mitchell Hamline School of Law.





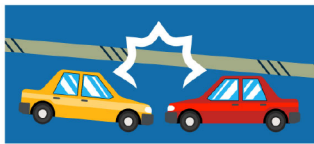


HAVE YOU BEEN IN A CAR ACCIDENT IN



WASHINGTON STATE?

If you answer YES to these questions,
I may be able to help you!



- » Do you have total expected medical bills and lost wages of at least \$5,000.
- » Is there visible property damage to your car?
- » Was the accident someone else's fault?
- » Did you receive prompt medical treatment after the accident?
- » Have you followed the recommended course of treatment from your doctor?
- » Did the accident occur less than 15 months ago?

CHONG H. YE

The Ye Law Firm, Inc. P.S.

31919 1st Avenue South, Suite 104

Federal Way, WA 98003 (235) 946-0577

TheYeLawFirm.com