

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CASE REQUIRES LITIGATION?

While every claim is different, litigation can take one to three years to reach settlement or trial. Fortunately, only a small percentage of personal injury claims require litigation.

1

Lawsuit Preparation and Filing

Pre-suit negotiations have been unsuccessful, and your claim is reviewed for litigation.

GOLDLAW prepares the lawsuit, which is filed with the court and formally served on the Defendant.

The Defendant forwards the lawsuit to their insurance company, which typically has 20 days to retain counsel and file a response.



Estimated
Timeframe

1-3 MONTHS

2

Discovery Phase

Both sides exchange information through written questions (Interrogatories) and Requests for Production of Documents.

You will provide sworn testimony during a deposition. Your attorney will prepare you beforehand, and the deposition typically lasts a full day.

Depositions of the Defendant, witnesses, and experts may also be conducted as part of the discovery process.



Estimated
Timeframe

6-12 MONTHS

3

Mediation / Settlement Conference

Before trial, the parties participate in a formal mediation conducted by a neutral third party.

The mediation provides an opportunity to negotiate a settlement and potentially resolve the claim without going to trial.

Mediation typically occurs 1-4 months before the scheduled trial date.



Estimated
Timeframe

1-4 MONTHS
BEFORE TRIAL

4

Trial Preparation and Trial

The court schedules a trial date and both sides prepare their cases for presentation to a jury.

Trials may last anywhere from a few days to several weeks, depending on the complexity of the case.

You (and your spouse, if applicable) will generally be required to attend the entire trial.



Estimated
Timeframe

1-4 WEEKS

5

Verdict and Possible Appeal

If the case proceeds to verdict and the outcome is favorable, the Defendant may choose to file an appeal.

An appeal can take 1-2 years to resolve. In some circumstances, a successful appeal may result in portions of the case being retried, and the case goes back to court.



Estimated
Timeframe

12-24 MONTHS