

Why You Should Never Lie

One of the quickest ways to lose your personal injury case is to lie.

If you are planning on lying because you think you will get more money that way, please do not call us. We are strictly honest, and we demand the same of our clients.

If you lie (or even exaggerate) to your doctor so that you can make money from an injury, you are not only committing fraud, but you are setting yourself up for failure.

This does **not** mean that you should just open your mouth and tell the insurance company everything willy nilly. Refusing to answer a question is perfectly acceptable. Making false statements is not.

Insurance companies have huge databases. They will find medical records that you do not even remember. They may interview your neighbors, friends, co-workers, and even your ex-husband or ex-wife. They may follow you around with a video camera. You simply cannot get away with lying, and you should not try.

Even the slightest—perhaps even unintentional—exaggeration can ruin your case. For instance: let's say you were an avid gardener and spent many hours each weekend in your garden, until you were injured in a car accident. Now, because of the injury, you are reduced to bringing a stool out and clipping flowers for ten minutes before the pain stops you. You might tell the jury that you can't garden anymore. But then the insurance company shows a videotape of you sitting on your stool clipping flowers, and your story is no longer credible. You have to be completely and precisely honest: much better to say, "I can't garden for 10 hours a week like I used to," than to exaggerate and be perceived as a liar.

In addition to your doctors, insurance companies and the jury, you also need to be completely honest with your lawyer. You'll need to tell your lawyer about any past injuries or accidents so that he/she can take all the relevant facts into account when making your case.

To be sure, the insurance company is going to find out this information anyway, because they have nationwide databases and they share information. If your lawyer does not know about prior accidents and injuries beforehand, the insurance company will know that your lawyer is missing key facts, and the insurance company will make a low offer, knowing that your lawyer is not ready for trial.

The key point here is that to have a real shot at winning your personal injury case, you must be absolutely honest with your doctors, with your lawyers, *and* with the other side (though you should not talk to the other side without your lawyer present!) Your entire case rests on your credibility. If you lose that, you lose your case.