



THE LAW OFFICES OF
KEVIN J. ROACH, LLC.

Fall Newsletter



Happy Fall from the Roach Law Office! In this issue, find out the best ways to gather evidence for your personal injury case, read about some of our clients' latest victories, check out the Missouri Lawyers Weekly article about one of our recent cases, and learn Halloween safety tips!

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How to Gather Evidence in Your Personal Injury Case



If you have suffered an injury because of someone else's negligence, you may be entitled to compensation. However, the validity of your claim and the size of your settlement will depend largely on the evidence that you can bring forward during your case.

If you want to ensure that your case is as strong as possible, you should follow these evidence-gathering tips:

1. Document the Details

Most legal experts agree that no matter how serious or grave an injury may be, you will eventually begin to forget about the key details of the incident. As such, instead of trusting your memory, you should write down the details of the entire event as soon as possible. This allows you to carefully document even minor incidents which could later have a major impact on your case.

2. Document the Scene

The scene of the incident often plays an important role in the case, presenting valuable information that can help prove your side of the story and nail the defendant. Taking photos of the scene is the best way to document it. A step

that was out of place or a speed limit sign that was ignored will show the court who was at fault for the damages caused. Along with documenting the scene, it is also vital that you photograph your injuries as soon as possible. This can later be presented as proof, helping the court gain a better understanding of your plight.

3. Document the Witnesses

A witness to the accident can help to prove the case for you. However, they too can forget details which are crucial to your claim. It is important that they write down their version of events while it is still fresh in their memory. You could even request to record them detailing what they saw.

In Closing

When seeking compensation for an injury, having the right evidence is vital. By following the advice contained in this article, you will be able to put together the evidence you need to make your case.

Recent Victories!



\$590,000 recovered for our client who was rear-ended on 1-24-18 in Henry County Missouri. Client was initially diagnosed with only a head injury and sprained back in the emergency room. Several months after the accident a herniated disc was diagnosed that required low back surgery. After several month of negotiating Travelers insurance agree to pay \$590,000 which was \$200,000 above their initial offer.

\$200,000 Policy limits offer to client who was hit by a farm tractor in Putnam County Missouri on 9-27-16. Client was transported by AIR-EVAC to University Hospital in Columbia with a closed head injury. We took the case over in late 2018 and were able to negotiate a policy limits settlement with State Farm Insurance.

\$100,000 recovered for our client involved in 1-4-19 auto accident in Moniteau County Missouri. Our client rear-ended a semi that was stopped on the side of highway making an illegal U-turn. Our client's only injury was a large facial laceration that required surgery in the emergency room. Northland Insurance initially denial liability and refused to open a claim prior to representation.

\$100,000 policy limits recovered for our client injured in a cross-over accident in Jefferson County Missouri on 2-11-19. Initial injury diagnosis was a dislocated shoulder from his seat-belt. It was later determined that shoulder surgery would be required in the future as a result of this accident. After obtaining an expert opinion on causation and surgery Progressive Insurance agreed to pay their policy limits.

Missouri Lawyers Weekly Article

MissouriLawyers

www.molawyersweekly.com

WEEKLY

■ \$1.5M JUDGMENT (OUT OF STATE)

Mediator finds for sleeping driver injured in Illinois truck crash

MOTOR-VEHICLE COLLISION

■ **Venue:** Effingham County, Illinois

■ **Case Number/Date:** Not filed/July 8, 2019

■ **Plaintiff's Experts:** Kent Jayne, Iowa (vocational); Rebecca Summary (accounting, damages, economics)

■ **Caption:** Confidential v. H & H Freight, Northland Insurance, Hallmark Insurance

■ **Plaintiff's Attorney:** Kevin J. Roach, Law Offices of Kevin J. Roach, Chesterfield



Kevin J. Roach

truck driver, leaving her with a serious lower back injury requiring a lumbar fusion, as well as a head injury and PTSD.

Another woman was injured in a separate vehicle and was represented by a different firm. The defendant driver's company had insurance limits of about \$1.9 million after paying prop-

erty damage claims. Roach said the parties could not agree how to split the proceeds, so they agreed to mediate the case prior to litigation.

The mediator entered a judgment for Roach's client of \$1,500,000 and awarded the remainder to the other injured party. The defendant company didn't admit fault.

Roach asked that his client not be named.

BY SCOTT LAUCK

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A woman injured in a trucking accident in Effingham County, Illinois, received \$1.5 million after entering binding mediation with the responsible party, according to her attorney.

Attorney Kevin J. Roach said his client was asleep in her cab when she was hit by another

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The Ultimate Halloween Safety Checklist



Remember when all you had to do for Halloween was slip the little one into a pumpkin onsey, then take him or her around the neighborhood in a stroller? About the only thing you needed back then was extra diapers and baby wipes. Pretty soon, though, you'll be trading in that pumpkin onsey for a Wonder Woman or Harry Potter costume. That means it's also more difficult keeping track of the little monsters, too. The older your kids get, the more prepared you have to be to keep everyone safe.

Don't Forget Your Cell Phone!

Sounds ridiculous, right? After all, you probably take your cellphone with you everywhere. However, between getting the kids dressed and ready and putting on your own costume, it would be easy to walk out that door without your phone. Make it a point to double-check it before you walk out the door. Make sure your phone is fully charged, too - you'll still want to take photos.

Know Your Route and Neighborhood

The best way to get lost or find yourself in an area that's not safe for you and your kids is to go someplace unfamiliar. If you have to travel for your trick-or-treating, then ask around first to find a safe neighborhood. Go with a group, too, if possible. Remember, there's safety in numbers.

Don't Eat the Candy Until You Get Home

This will be a tough one for the kids, but your children should wait until you get home before they devour any of the treats. That way, you can inspect the loot beforehand and throw out anything suspicious. Along those lines, don't let your

children accept any candy or toys that look weird or out of place. Chances are, it's probably fine, but it's also not worth the risk.

Stick to the Sidewalks

Halloween is an especially tricky holiday for motorists, thanks to a bunch of sugar-crazed kids running around at night in dark costumes. Make sure your child sticks to well-lit sidewalks whenever possible while avoiding busy streets.

Costume and Makeup Maintenance

Before you buy the latest emoji or Batman costume, make sure it's fire resistant. For dark costumes, place some reflective tape on it and the candy bags. Likewise, make sure the makeup isn't toxic, and wash it all off before the kids go to bed because it can irritate the skin.

For the Older Kids ...

If your child is old enough to go trick-or-treating without an adult present, then make sure he or she travels with other age-appropriate friends. You should know and review with them the route they're going to take. This is also a great time to review a few rules, like only going to homes with the porch light on and never entering a stranger's house (no matter how big the Hershey bars are inside). Of course, you'll also need to agree upon a return time home. Make sure the older kids bring their cellphones, but stress to them that they can't see what's in front of them if their faces are buried in their phones.

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