

Navigating Your Drunk Driving Accident Claim

Understanding the difference between criminal DUI cases and civil personal injury claims.

Based on Denver Drunk Driving Accident Lawyer by McCormick and Murphy

Step 1: Understand the Separate Cases

Recognize that a drunk driving accident involves two distinct legal processes: a criminal case and a civil personal injury claim.

- The criminal case is initiated by the state to punish the offender.
- The civil lawsuit is initiated by you to seek financial compensation.



Step 2: Criminal Case Purpose

The criminal case's goal is to punish the drunk driver through penalties like fines, jail time, or license suspension.



Step 3: Civil Claim Purpose

Your civil lawsuit aims to obtain financial compensation for your damages, including medical bills, lost wages, and pain and suffering.



Step 4: Independence of Claims

Your civil claim can be filed and pursued independently of the status of the criminal case.



Step 5: Do Not Wait for Criminal Case Conclusion

You should not delay filing your civil claim while waiting for the criminal case to be resolved.



Step 6: Be Aware of Statute of Limitations

Colorado law imposes a three-year statute of limitations for personal injury claims.

- This deadline starts from the date of the accident, not from any criminal conviction date.



Step 7: File Your Claim Promptly

Ensure your civil claim is filed within the three-year statute of limitations to preserve your right to seek compensation.

Resources & Further Reading

Related guides for this process:

■ Drunk Driving Accident Claim Checklist

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■ Navigating Your Drunk Driving Accident Claim (Timeline)

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Pursue civil compensation for your injuries, regardless of the criminal case outcome.