

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING EVIDENCE

Regardless of the kind of case you have, every lawsuit is the same in one way: The evidence must support your claim. This means that if you suspect you have a claim, you should take steps to preserve the evidence that could be critical in supporting your case.

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words, and this is especially true in a lawsuit. If you have been hurt in a car accident, take photos of the car you were in, the scene, and, if possible, your injuries. Documents can also be evidence: Receipts, medical records, product instructions, accident reports, and the like can all be used to prove your claims.

It is especially important to preserve evidence in collisions involving a commercial tractor-trailer. All carriers engaged in interstate commerce must comply with federal regulations that require certain documents and records be kept for certain amounts of time, like daily logs, daily inspection reports, trip reports, dispatch records and many others. Critical evidence may start disappearing in as little as 14 days, unless your attorney takes action to preserve it.

Evidence is also critically important in products liability cases, where someone is hurt by a defective product. Keep the product in the condition that it was in when the injury occurred and, if it is not in your possession (such as a car in a wrecker yard), take steps to secure it. There are reports of defendants trying to buy the defective product so that they can destroy it.

Sooner is better than later. A picture of the accident scene taken the day of or the day after a collision is worth more than one taken a year later. A picture of your bruises taken soon after you were injured will tell more than pictures of the same bruises once they have begun to heal.

When you hire a lawyer to represent you, give the attorney all of the evidence you have saved.
This will help your lawyer make your case and get you the compensation you deserve.