

# Ask the Expert

*What every West Georgian should know about...*

## Contracting a Lawyer for a Personal Injury Case

**Q** Is it important to meet the lawyer I will be speaking with about my case?

**A** Absolutely. Clients have to have a level of trust in dealing with their attorney's. I believe that this trust can only be established by having a direct, one on one relationship with the individual you choose to represent you in any legal action. You wouldn't necessarily buy a car without test driving it. For that matter, most people probably wouldn't by a pair of shoes without first trying them on. You must hold your attorney to that same standard and the only way you can do so is by meeting with them directly.

**Q** How long does a personal injury case usually last?

**A** Every personal injury case is different. There should be no rush to settle a personal injury case or present it to a jury. You need to make sure that all of your injuries are at their maximum medical

improvement and that no additional treatment is necessary. Once you settle your claim or have a jury determine damages you can't go back and add additional expenses. Therefore, make sure your medical issues have been resolved before finalizing a settlement.

**Q** Why do I need a lawyer in a Personal Injury Case?

**A** The truth of the matter is you may not. Some individuals are able to work with the at fault parties insurance company to a satisfying result. However, more likely then not, especially if liability has not been established, the insurance company will not cooperate with you. In those cases you will want to ensure that you have an attorney protect your rights and interests and get you the best possible results either through settlement mediation or litigation.

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**Tim MacMillan**  
Attorney  
MacMillan Law Firm

### Qualifications

Tim MacMillan received his Juris Doctor in 1998. Tim practices in the legal areas of Family Law, Personal Injury, Worker's Compensation, and Wills. He is also a certified mediator. He has been practicing law in Carrollton since July 2001.

**Personal Injury • Family Law  
Criminal Law • Worker's Compensation**

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