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Facebook Photos - Post-Accident Facebook Photos Can and Will Be Used Against You by The Insurance Company

It is often said - "A picture is worth a thousand words." The saying may be true but pictures, like words, do not always tell the truth. When it comes to photos of yourself posted on Facebook after you have been injured in an accident, those photos may be lying about your medical condition.

If you are rear-ended at a traffic light or hit broadside by someone running a stop sign or a red light, you can have painful injuries that last for months, if not years. During that time, life goes on.

There are still chores to do, leaves to rake, grass to cut, kids to chauffeur around town, family picnics and get togethers to attend, and visits with friends. While still in pain, you do chores and activities you did before you were hurt. If you don't do them, who will? The insurance company for the person who hit you won't be knocking on your door to find out what kind of help they can offer. Those "good hands" are more likely balled up into tight fists.

You may go to the beach or a football game. You may go to a wedding, go out to dinner with friends, or go on vacation. Put pictures of any of these things on Facebook and the insurance company loves it. Those pictures probably make it look like you are having a good time and feeling fine. What they rarely if ever show is the pain you were in at the time, or the pain you were in afterwards for having gone out.

That is what insurance companies are counting on.

Whether you are trying to settle your own personal injury claim or a lawyer is handling your case, insurance companies are looking at your Facebook page and other social media websites where your pictures are posted. Don't think that your pages are private and that the insurance companies won't find your photographs. They will.



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Once they find pictures of you doing anything you said you have trouble doing, or anything you couldn't do any more or that you tried and gave up because of your injuries, they lower the value of your claim. You may have told the whole truth and nothing but the truth, but now they have "proof" you are doing better than you say. Their lawyers tsk-tsk and say shame on you. Now they have something to show a jury and say - See this! She said she couldn't do this, and here she is doing it! They may even say that if you lied about your injuries, you can't be trusted on anything, including your story about how your accident happened or whether you had your aches and pains before the accident.

On the other hand, if you avoid doing everything your injuries interfere with, that same insurance company will accuse you of malingering and exaggerating your injuries.

If you have a Facebook page and are injured in an accident, think more than twice about putting pictures of yourself on the Internet. The value of your case may drop by a few thousand dollars, tens of thousands, or even hundreds of thousands of dollars, simply because you put photos of yourself on Facebook.

It used to be that insurance companies had to hire investigators to go out and take photographs and video of injured people, hoping to catch them in the act of doing something the company could use to challenge and undermine the injured person's claims. Now with Facebook, many injured people are doing the insurance investigators' work for free.

If you are injured in an accident, don't put any pictures of yourself on Facebook until your claim is settled or the trial is over.



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