

If you need our services,  
please contact us at...

407-648-4535 or

1-800-989-4535

[www.vaughanpa.com](http://www.vaughanpa.com)

# THE VAUGHAN LAW REPORT

SUMMER 2017

## What Happens After a Case Settles?



### Vaughan Law Group Attorneys At Law

Thomas Vaughan has been recognized as...

- one of the nation's top 100 injured workers' attorneys by WILG (Workers' Injury Law and Advocacy Group).
- one of the top lawyers in Florida by The Legal Network.
- one of Orlando's top lawyers by *Orlando Home & Leisure*.

121 S. Orange Avenue  
Suite 900

Orlando, FL 32801

Phone: 407-648-4535

Fax: 407-426-9512

Toll-free: 1-800-989-4535

Website:

[www.vaughanpa.com](http://www.vaughanpa.com)



LIKE us on  
FACEBOOK

If you need help filing a claim, or if your workers' compensation claim has been denied, call a qualified lawyer to discuss your case.

Reaching a fair settlement and avoiding a trial is ideal. As opposed to a trial, where the appeal process will likely delay an award for two years or more, payment should come much more quickly after a settlement.

After a case is settled, the defense attorney will prepare a release stating the terms of the settlement. If it is well written and the terms agreeable, your lawyer will have you sign the document and file it with the court. It is not uncommon for the document to include terms that are objectionable, in which case your attorney will work with the defense to resolve the issue. In rare cases, a judge may have to be called to help reach an agreement, which will slow down the settlement process.

Once the release is filed and the settlement proceeds become available, your lawyer will pay any liens against your lawsuit. Typically, health insurers (or medical providers) are entitled to be reimbursed for their expenses if you are compensated for your medical bills. After your liens are settled, the lawyer will collect his or her fees and expenses and forward the settlement to you.

## Have a Safe Summer Vacation!

Chances are good that a trip to an amusement park or water park is on your summer to-do list.

With so many deadly accidents occurring, you might wonder what rights you have if you were to be injured. Last season alone, a young girl was scalped on a whirling ride, two children fell from a Ferris wheel, a 3-year-old fell from a roller coaster, a 10-year-old rider was decapitated on a water slide, and four adults were killed in a river rapids ride. Fortunately, injuries of this magnitude and death are rare. Bruises, lacerations, and head, shoulder, and back injuries are more common. They just won't make the nightly news or show up in your news feed.

**Here are four things that an attorney will review when considering an amusement park ride accident:**

**Improper ride operation:** Did the park or operator show a lack of reasonable care that contributed to or caused an injury? Was the ride operator properly trained? Did they act in accordance with training?

**Mechanical failure:** Was the attraction properly maintained and inspected to ensure safety? If so, could the ride have a design flaw that caused the accident or conditions causing an accident?

**Assumption of risk:** Is the rider participating in an act that has inherent risks? For example, an extremely fast or rapidly spinning ride might cause cerebral and retinal hemorrhage due to G-force, but it is part of the ride's attraction. Likewise, it is reasonable to assume that you might have a collision while operating a bumper car.

**Rider noncompliance with rules:** Did a rider ignore posted rules and warnings such as height, weight, and health restrictions?

If you or a family member suffered an injury at an amusement park, you may be able to collect compensation for related losses. Consult with an experienced attorney to discuss your case.

*We take your family's safety and security personally.*

# Injured? Change the Way You Socialize Online

Yes, social-media posts can be used as evidence against you. If you are a plaintiff in a personal injury accident, you can assume that insurance adjustors and defense attorneys are keeping a close tab on your social-media feeds. They are looking for photographs and any interactions that could suggest that you are exaggerating an injury or got an injury doing something other than what you claim, or any posts that might discredit you or your case.

## ARCHIVE

If you are in the middle of a case, you really should stop using social media and archive the content of your accounts. This means that it isn't available online, but the content is available if it is requested as evidence. If you delete your content, or destroy devices, it will come across like you have something to hide.

## STOP USING SOCIAL MEDIA

Your best bet is to stop using social media by archiving and deactivating your accounts. If you don't do that, consider not posting or commenting, and just follow your friends. Set your privacy settings to high, remove people you don't know from your friend lists, and don't accept requests from people or organizations that you don't know.

## DELETE PHOTOS

Remove photos and tags to photos of you engaged in any kind of activity. These can be taken out of context easily by a defense attorney.

## PROCEED WITH CAUTION

If you maintain accounts and continue to post, assume that every post, like, and comment will be read by the opposing legal team, a judge, and a jury. Don't post anything regarding your accident, injury, or personal injury case online.



## VAUGHAN LAW GROUP

### Attorneys At Law

121 South Orange Avenue, Suite 900  
Orlando, FL 32801

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
LANCASTER, PA  
PERMIT NO. 23

## Soft-Tissue Injuries

When injured in a car accident, not all injuries are as obvious as lacerations and broken bones. The impact can also damage muscles, tendons, and ligaments, resulting in expensive treatment. Unfortunately, these are the types of injuries that don't show up on an X-ray; in fact, they may not become apparent for days after an accident.

Whiplash and shoulder injuries are two common soft-tissue injuries sustained in car accidents. While your entire body is affected by a collision, the head, neck, and arms, which aren't restrained, snap forward and back during a collision. This motion can strain and tear tendons, ligaments, and muscles in the neck, upper back, and shoulders and damage joints.

Because soft-tissue injuries can take days to manifest and may not be detectable during an initial medical evaluation, it is important to get back to the doctor as soon as symptoms appear. If you are in an auto accident and begin to experience pain, burning, tingling, numbness, muscle spasms, or have trouble moving your neck, upper back, or shoulders, see a doctor right away. Treatment can be costly, and having to immobilize your neck or shoulder to recover can result in missed work.

*Soft-tissue injuries can take days to manifest and may not be detectable during an initial medical evaluation. It is important to get back to the doctor as soon as symptoms appear.*

