

If you need our services, please contact us at **319-754-6400, 319-524-7500, or 866-PLF-IOWA**



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Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Pothitakis Law Firm Has Been Recognized for Excellence

In the 2026 Edition Best Law Firms Rankings

The 16th edition of Best Law Firms, independently produced by Best Lawyers, holds significant importance in the legal industry. It serves as a benchmark for excellence, providing a comprehensive and reliable guide of the top-performing law firms across 127 practice areas and 188 local jurisdictions. The rankings are meticulously compiled based on a rigorous evaluation process that includes client feedback, peer reviews, industry leader interviews, and detailed analysis of law firm data. **This year we received more than 100,000 client references and observed a 65% increase in client participation in our survey.** This milestone in client engagement underscores the significant value that consumers of legal services attribute to the Best Law Firms awards.

Best Law Firms not only assists clients in making informed decisions when selecting legal representation, but also recognizes the hard work and dedication of the firms that have demonstrated exceptional performance. Furthermore, being featured in Best Law Firms enhances a firm's reputation, attracts top legal talent, and solidifies your position in a competitive market.

Mr. Pothitakis stated, "We are honored to be recognized as one of the 2026 Best Law Firms by Best Law Firm rankings. This award is a testament to our unwavering commitment to helping injured individuals level the playing field against insurance companies. We take pride in advocating for our clients and achieving the best possible outcomes, and we will continue to uphold the highest standards in our pursuit of justice."

*Nationally recognized
workers' compensation
and personal injury
attorney*

- U.S. News & World Report
Best Law Firms 2021 to 2023
- President, Iowa Association
of Workers' Compensation
Lawyers, Inc. 2016
- Best Lawyers In America—
2017 to 2023 Listing
- Super Lawyers—2017 to
2021
- National Trial Lawyers—
Top 100 Trial Lawyers 2018,
2019, 2020, 2023



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

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8 Car Accident Claim Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Did you experience pain and suffering from an auto accident that was not your fault? If so, you may be able to file a claim to receive compensation. However, making mistakes can delay the resolution or reduce the compensation you're entitled to.

Every detail matters and it's crucial to understand how to avoid common pitfalls during the claims process.

Here are the top eight car accident claim mistakes and how to avoid them.

1. **Not Calling the Police:** Even in minor accidents, it is essential to call the police immediately after the incident. This official record plays a crucial role in protecting your rights and securing a favorable outcome in your case.
2. **Not Seeking Medical Attention:** Even if you feel fine, you should schedule a medical checkup as soon as possible after your accident. Often, people will not immediately feel pain due to adrenaline from being involved in a collision. Additionally, it is wise to be seen by a medical professional to rule out any internal injuries.
3. **Admitting Fault or Making Apologies:** Apologizing or admitting fault at the scene can be used against you by insurance companies. Avoid making any statements about fault.
4. **Not Gathering Evidence:** Always take pictures of the accident scene, damage and collect contact information from any witnesses.
5. **Delaying to File a Claim:** Contact your insurance company as soon as possible to initiate the claim filing process.
6. **Speaking with the Other Party's Insurance Provider:** You must direct all communication through your attorney.
7. **Accepting a Quick Settlement:** Don't be pressured into accepting a quick settlement. This can result in you receiving less compensation than you are entitled to.
8. **Not Understanding Your Legal Rights:** The car claims process is complex. It's recommended to speak to an experienced attorney to understand your rights.

If you are considering filing an auto accident claim, our attorneys will explain your legal rights and options, helping to ensure you receive the compensation you deserve.

What Workers' Compensation Is and How It Works



Getting hurt at work changes everything. Suddenly, the routines you count on and the paycheck you rely on are disrupted. Workers' compensation is supposed to act as a safety net, covering medical bills and lost wages and helping you recover with some sense of stability. But navigating the system can feel like entering a maze, and it gets even more difficult when your claim doesn't go as planned.

This process starts simply enough. You report the injury or illness to your employer, visit a doctor, and file a claim with assistance from your state's workers' compensation system. However, as straightforward as it sounds, securing benefits isn't always guaranteed. An employer's insurance provider will closely scrutinize every detail to validate a claim, from medical records to employer communication.

Understanding how the system works and the hurdles you might face is the first step in protecting your rights. When that safety net falls short with a denial, frustration and uncertainty can set in quickly.

Why Denial Can Impact More Than Your Wallet

A denied workers' compensation claim hits hard, not just financially, but emotionally. Without those benefits, paying medical bills or even covering the mortgage can become a constant source of stress. For some, this lack of support pushes them to go back to work before they're fully healed, risking further injury or prolonged recovery times.

Many reasons can trigger denials—maybe paperwork was incomplete, medical proof wasn't strong enough, or your employer questioned whether the injury even happened on the job. What matters most now is understanding the "why" behind the denial and how to fix it.

Continue on the next page.

When you know the reason for the denial, you can take clear next steps to tackle it. Whether that means gathering stronger evidence, consulting with legal support, or filing an appeal, there's still a path forward to seek the benefits you need.

Common Reasons Workers' Compensation Claims Get Denied: Faulty or Missing Medical Evidence

One big reason claims get denied? Lack of solid medical documentation. If your records don't clearly show the injury and tie it to workplace activities, insurers may start poking holes in your claim. This can happen if you're missing key paperwork or if the records don't offer enough detail.

To avoid this, make sure your visits to the doctor are well-documented. Your medical reports should explain how your injury happened, the treatment you're receiving, and your progress. If you think the initial records aren't strong enough, consider getting another medical opinion to back up your case. The stronger your evidence, the harder it is for anyone to question your claim.

Missed Deadlines

Another red flag for claims is missing deadlines. Every state has specific timelines for reporting workplace injuries and filing claims. If you miss these, even by a few days, your case could be dismissed outright.

The clock starts ticking the moment you're injured, so report the incident to your employer as soon as possible. Then, gather all needed paperwork and file your claim quickly. To keep things organized, you might want to write down important dates, track your steps, and save any proof that shows you met the deadlines.

Disputes About the Injury's Origin

When an employer or their insurance company questions whether your injury really happened at work, it can lead to a denial. This is why reporting the incident right away and providing a consistent account of what happened is so important. Any delay in reporting or inconsistencies in your story can be used against you.

Make sure your injury report is detailed and accurate. If anyone witnessed the accident, have them document what they saw. If there's surveillance footage that could back up your claim, request it as early as possible. These steps can protect your case and help prevent disputes.

What's Next When Your Claim Is Denied?

Reviewing the Denial Letter

If your claim has been denied, the first step is to carefully review the denial letter you received. This document explains why your claim was rejected and gives you crucial insight into what to do next. Pinpoint what went wrong. Was it due to insufficient medical evidence? A late filing? A question of injury origin? Knowing this allows you to address the issues head-on.

Filing an Appeal

Don't give up if you're facing a denial. Filing an appeal brings new opportunities to strengthen your case. Every state has its own appeals process, with specific rules and deadlines, so it's important to act fast. Start by gathering additional documents like updated medical records or witness statements. These can be used to challenge the denial at your appeal hearing.

The hearing itself is your chance to present your case. Preparation is key. Anticipate questions you may face, stick to the facts, and bring along all evidence that supports your claim.

Preparing for the Hearing

When attending a hearing, being prepared will ease your nerves and improve your odds. Bring all the documents you've collected, such as injury reports, medical records, and any other supportive evidence. Work on presenting a clear timeline of events. If you're unsure about the process, you could benefit from consulting someone well-versed in similar situations to help guide you.

How to Strengthen Your Case Moving Forward: Focus on Medical Documentation

Keeping thorough medical records is one of the best things you can do to support your workers' compensation claim. Don't skip follow-up appointments with your doctor, and don't be shy about discussing every detail of your injury and how it affects your daily life. The more complete the records, the harder it is for anyone to dispute the severity of your injury.

If you're dealing with ongoing challenges, consider seeking an independent medical evaluation. This can add another layer of credibility to your case and directly address disputes about the nature or extent of your injury.

Communicate Clearly With Your Employer

Staying open and honest with your employer can have a big impact on the outcome of your claim. Inform them about your injury right away, and make sure you document every interaction, whether it's a conversation, email, or meeting. This documentation becomes valuable if disputes arise later.

Avoid Common Pitfalls

Missing deadlines, providing incomplete forms, and failing to follow medical advice are some of workers' biggest mistakes during the claims process. Avoid these by staying organized. Create a checklist for paperwork, meet deadlines, and always follow your treatment plan exactly as prescribed.

Need Help?

Pothitakis Law Firm Can Step In

A denied claim doesn't have to mean a dead end. If you're in Burlington, or the surrounding area, turn to Pothitakis Law Firm for the dedicated support you need. Whether your claim was denied or you're just unsure about the process, we're here to guide you through every step. Don't try to handle everything alone when help is just a call away.

*Contact us at (319) 318-0450 today,
and take the first step toward
getting the benefits you deserve!*





5 Star Reviews – See what our clients are saying

★★★★★ I would give 6 stars if I could.

"I would give 6 stars if I could. I initially contacted Niko's office for advice on a work injury. His staff were very friendly and knowledgeable. When workers' comp denied my claim Niko took me on as a client. My claim wasn't big but he worked hard to get me a fair settlement. Janet explained everything every step of the way. Can't recommend this firm enough for a workers comp claim!"

★★★★★ To the point and honest

"Niko was always to the point and honest about [my case]. Very courteous staff. Always able to speak with me and prompt on returning my calls. Thank you." - C.L.

★★★★★ Niko was very professional and took the time to explain everything so I understood.

"He kept me updated on everything. He did an awesome job for me! Couldn't have gotten near what I did without his help! His staff is so nice and helpful too. Great place to go!" - S.D.

★★★★★ What a wonderful and pleasant firm to work with.

"What a wonderful and pleasant firm to work with. Had issue with getting answers from company and work compensation insurance, so I called Niko and things went smoothly from there." - B.W.



POTHITAKIS
LAW
WORKER'S COMP
PERSONAL INJURY

POTHITAKIS LAW FIRM P.C.

Attorney At Law
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Thanks to all of you who have recommended our firm to your relatives, friends, and neighbors. We appreciate your vote of confidence and pledge to care for these "VIPs" as well as we care for you.

The results from the cases of the Pothitakis Law Firm P.C. are diverse, and the results vary considerably. The case results are not a guarantee of future results, as they are specific to facts and legal circumstances of each client's case, and for this reason should not form the basis for future expectations on a different case. These cases may not be typical, and there are many factors that determine the result of a case. The determination of the need for legal services and the choice of a lawyer are extremely important decisions and should not be based solely upon advertisements or self-proclaimed expertise. All potential claimants are urged to make their own independent investigation or evaluation of any lawyer being considered.

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Electric Bike Popularity is on the Rise

The Electric Bike (EB) has become an increasingly popular mode of transportation because it is easy to operate, convenient and time saving as well as economical and environmentally friendly. However, E-Bike road-traffic injuries have been steadily increasing and are quickly becoming a road-traffic safety problem. E-Bike accidents can result in serious injuries, property damage and significant medical expenses.

Safety experts caution that without proper education and training e-bike users face a greater risk of injury or death in accidents. E-bikes are heavier and faster than regular bikes. They travel at a higher rate of speed because of their battery power; class 3 bikes can reach speeds up to 28 mph. This makes them more dangerous than regular bicycles. Pedestrians cannot get out of the way fast enough and motor vehicles do not anticipate that the bike is moving at a higher rate of speed.

Experts advise buying e-bikes that meet safety standards, being careful with charging and using lithium-ion batteries. To prevent accidents and injuries it is also crucial to properly maintain your e-bike.

Follow these safety tips:

- ▶ Always wear a helmet
- ▶ Follow speed regulations
- ▶ Be seen and heard
- ▶ Stay alert
- ▶ Wear reflective material
- ▶ Know and use your signals
- ▶ Maintain your electric bicycle

Electric Bike accidents have been caused by defective electrical components, uncontrolled acceleration, battery fires and improper training.

If an accident occurs:

- ▶ Seek medical attention
- ▶ Document the accident scene and gather evidence
- ▶ Notify your insurance company
- ▶ Consult with an E-Bike Accident Attorney

If you were injured by the negligent actions of a car, truck, bus driver or by another bicycle or e-bike rider while riding an electric bike, contact our office today. We are here to help.