

10 QUICK STEPS TO YOUR JONES ACT SETTLEMENT



You may be surprised at how fast your maritime injury case could be resolved. Some people worry it can take “years” for a case to settle or go to court. In our experience, most cases can be resolved in as little as 4 to 6 months once the basic discovery is done on your case. Usually you will get your best offers right before your trial date. This is typically about a year after filing your claim.



THE YOUNG FIRM
A LAW FIRM FOCUSED ON MARITIME LAW

How Long Will My Maritime or Jones Act Case Take?

Very often you do not want to resolve your claim immediately. You won't know the fair value of your claim unless you have had a complete medical workup, with proper testing to diagnosis your medical injuries. Remember, your company may be willing to settle right now, but you may not like the amount they would offer you!

01

Filing the Claim in Court



This is just a few pieces of paper (5-10 pages) called the "claim," "petition" or "complaint." It's a very general statement giving the other side notice that you are going to take action against them. This officially starts the court process.

02

Answer Filed by Defendants

Within the next 45 days

Now that your complaint has been filed, the defendant(s) will be served with the complaint. The defendant(s) will then have 30 to 60 days to provide the court, and us, with an answer to the complaint. The purpose of the answer is simply for the defendant to officially make an appearance before the court so that your case can then move forward in court.



03

Your Medical & Wage Records



Obtained during the first 60 days

Our office requests copies of all of your medical records, IRS records and Social Security records. This process usually takes approximately 60 days to be completed. Once we have received all records we will provide you with a copy for your file.

04

Interrogatories & Requests for Documents



Approximately 90 days from filing your claim

Also called "Discovery." When the defendant(s) files an answer to your suit, the defendant(s) will usually also serve our office with their discovery questions. These are basic questions about what happened to you and why we have filed the claim. We help you answer these before we send them back to the company lawyer.

05

Preliminary Conference

Approximately 60 days from filing your claim

The court will usually schedule the preliminary conference to take place approximately three weeks following the defendant(s) filing an answer with the court. A Preliminary Conference is a telephone conference between the court and all attorneys in the case. During this telephone conference, a trial date will be scheduled. It has been our experience that most judges will schedule a trial date anywhere from 10 to 12 months away from the Preliminary Conference but this varies among judges.



06

Your Deposition



Approximately 3-4 months from filing your claim

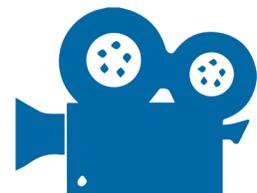
Your deposition will take place at our office and we will meet with you beforehand to fully prepare you for the questions you will be asked. An attorney with our office will also be present with you during your deposition, which usually last 2 to 4 hours depending upon the nature of your case. **Don't worry - we will make sure you are fully prepared for your deposition!**

07

Witness Depositions

Approximately 4-5 months from filing your claim

Following your deposition, our office will then request depositions of employees who we believe may have information important to your case. This is what we call "building your case" - we'll talk to the people that were there at the time of your accident, learn the history of how the job was done and/or should have been done and how you got injured. We really encourage our clients to attend if they can, but it's not mandatory.



08

Expert Reports



We now have an idea of what happened. We give the depositions and reports to medical and job experts who then determine and establish pain and suffering, physical injury and wage loss. There are also liability experts who establish fault.

09

Settlement Efforts

It's now time to sit down and talk about resolving the damages that happened to you, and decide what is a fair offer. There are three main ways cases can be settled:



Informal Talks

Attorney calls the other side, explaining what we believe you are owed.



Mediation

Using a third party, neutral attorney to objectively look at both sides and try to get us to form an agreement. They don't always work that day but generally are very productive.



Court Settlement Conferences

Federal court won't let a trial go forward without both parties meeting and trying to resolve the case through talking or mediation.

10

Rarely... A Trial



It is very rare that your case will go to trial. **99.99% of the time, settlement offers are made.** Ultimately, you are the one who chooses to go to trial or not.

CASE RESOLVED!



Great news - your case is resolved! The next and final step is for you to receive your settlement funds!

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“Our goal is to get you an excellent settlement in about a year. This lets you move on with your career and your life.”

- Tim Young