

Injured Consumers' Bill of Legal Rights

The "Bill of Legal Rights" has the following provisions:

1. The right to be left free from unsolicited contact by plaintiffs' or defendants' attorneys or defendants' insurers, or any of their representatives, for forty-five days after an event resulting in personal injury or death.
2. The right to a written fee agreement with a plaintiffs' lawyer and to be informed of each of the following before the agreement is signed, which shall be incorporated in the agreement:
 - the probability of a successful outcome;
 - the amount of recovery reasonably expected in that outcome;
 - the number of hours of legal services that are likely to be required to secure that outcome;
 - the amount of any costs or expenses that the client must bear;
 - all fee agreements to be made concerning the case, including the amount to be paid to any co-counsel associated with the case and/or to refer the client to another attorney in exchange for a referral fee; and
 - the availability and cost of alternative fee arrangements.
3. The right to have the lawyer keep accurate records of the time spent on a case.
4. The right to have an objective review of a contingent fee by a court or a bar association committee to assure that it is reasonable and fair in the circumstances.
5. The right to decide whether to participate in a potential class action before being included in such a case.

from "The Legal Reformer" (December 1997)

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