



Structured Settlements

In Their Own Words

*Injury Victims &
Financial Security*

Why I support structured settlements



Several years ago, I represented a woman who fell off a scaffold due to someone else's negligence. She was a paraplegic and when her lawsuit settled, she received about \$2.5 million. I tried my best to get her to put at least a portion of that in a structured settlement, but she declined.

Just three years later, she called to see if she could go back to court and get more money. She had already wasted almost her entire settlement on bad investments and friends, including her sister, who deceived her. If this lady had taken a structured settlement, she would be getting her regular payments and she'd still have her life together.

On the other hand, I have clients I represented more than 10 years ago who took a structured settlement and they're living very nicely. They have money to take care of their needs and the structured settlement protects them from wasting it.

That's why I support structured settlements.

Fayrell Furr
President, Southern Trial Lawyers Assn. (2005-06)
Myrtle Beach, SC

Real Stories

In 1989, an oncoming truck in the wrong lane hit our car head on, injuring three in our family.

As we looked at options for our lawsuit settlement, the structured settlement stood far above everything else. We wanted guarantees. We wanted security. And we didn't want to have to worry about sudden economic changes.

We were so impressed with the structured settlement that as a condition of settling our lawsuit, we demanded and received not one, but three structured settlements – one for each member who was hurt.

These have helped our family meet our living needs and pull our lives back together.

Barbara Bradley, Crosswell, Michigan

In 1998, my son was hit by a truck as he was bicycling. After years of painful rehabilitation, he is a miracle. He runs, rides a bike and smiles like any other teenager. I chose a structured settlement for our medical and living expenses. Since then, our payments have arrived on time and in full, exactly as we designed.

Parents of children who have been in an accident or who have a disability are under a special obligation. We must ensure that our settlement provides maximum protection. Without a doubt, the best way to accomplish this is with a structured settlement.

Roger Greene, Sacramento, California

In 1992, when I was single and in my twenties, I was in an auto accident that wasn't my fault. The accident caused back and neck injuries that forced me to give up my nursing job.

By 1995, when my case finally settled, my situation had changed. I was married and expecting a child. I was tempted to take all the money in cash, particularly given all our expected child expenses.

But I didn't. Instead, I put almost all the lawsuit money into a structured settlement that will begin payments as my husband and I near retirement.

More than 10 years have passed since I took the structured settlement and I'm convinced that this is one of the best financial decisions I've made. There's incredible peace of mind knowing that payments I need for retirement are totally secure and growing tax free. If I had to do it over again, I'd absolutely go with the structured settlement.

Suzanne Sinacori, Simsbury, CT



Whether you've received a moderate injury or a severe one, your lawsuit settlement is a one-time chance to be compensated for your loss. Unfortunately, during nearly 30 years representing accident victims and their families, I've seen too

many cases where lawsuit settlements are lost due to risky investments and high-pressure sales tactics.

That's why, regardless of how serious an injury is, I urge my clients to consider a structured settlement. When you agree on a structured settlement, you can arrange regular, on-time payments. This financial security is extremely important because it lets accident victims focus on the important task of pulling their lives back together.

Douglas deVries
Past President, California Trial Lawyers Association
Sacramento, CA

Structured Settlements: The Facts

Financial security. Your money is invested in life insurance company annuities and U.S. treasuries – two of the safest investments available.

Peace of mind. Your payments are guaranteed to arrive on time and in full.

Attractive returns. Federal law guarantees that your entire payment stream is exempt from federal and state income taxes.

Freedom. Your guaranteed tax-free income allows you and your family to focus on pulling your lives back together after tragic accident or wrongful death.

In 2000, our son was the victim of an injury at birth. For the rest of his life, he will require medical and rehabilitative care.

Right before our malpractice trial our family accepted a financial settlement that included a structured settlement. For us, the key advantage of this structured settlement is the peace of mind knowing that our son is guaranteed to have income to meet his needs for his entire life.

As long as my husband and I are on this earth, we'll take care of our son. Structuring the settlement allows us to know he will have access to excellent care whether or not we are alive.

If we had taken our whole settlement in cash and that money ran out, then we wouldn't have done our job as parents. Regardless of our job situations or market conditions, our structured settlement means that our son will always have the funding required for his care.

Finally, using the structured settlement made our probate approval easier. The probate judge looked favorably on choosing to structure a piece of our settlement.

Katie Churchin, Cleveland, OH

In 1973, my daughter Tiffany was born with brain damage, which I believe was the result of medical malpractice. Although my daughter is mentally alert, she is physically handicapped and unable to speak clearly.

My former husband and I initiated a malpractice lawsuit which, in 1980, produced a financial settlement that went into a protected account. Unfortunately, my husband took this money and invested it in his construction company which went bankrupt a few years later. The money for Tiffany was gone and soon my husband filed for divorce. I received no child support.

A few years later, Tiffany's wheelchair malfunctioned, causing it to roll into the street where she had an accident that involved severe facial injuries.

This time, I insisted on a structured settlement during settlement discussions with the wheelchair manufacturer. Taking care of Tiffany is a full-time job and requires constant attention, not to mention the financial need. My structured settlement provides guaranteed income and helps protect Tiffany from other people taking financial advantage of her.

Shirley Adams, Yorba Linda, California