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IMPORTANT WARNING

BE AWARE: What you post on your Facebook profile, or anywhere else online could destroy your personal injury claim and cost you money .

Although most people use social media websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Linked In and My Space as a way of reconnecting with old friends and keeping up with current friends, these websites are also used for purposes other than relationship building.

What you may not know is that insurance companies also use social internet sites and other internet sites to learn about your life and gain access to your personal information. Insurance companies have learned that these sites give them full access to valuable personal information about accident victims. They will surf the internet to find information about you that could potentially hurt your accident case.

Insurance adjustors, claims adjusters, investigators and defense attorneys scour the internet, aware of the vast amount of information offered freely by people online. Whether on a personal web page, blog, or other website such as Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, or Twitter, to name a few, the information to be found can be a goldmine for building a case against claimants.

This technique of surfing online for information on an accident victim is "internet surveillance." The information on the sites may be relevant to litigation, especially in the context of a personal injury claim.

Insurance companies will look at:

- **Pictures you post**
- **Pictures friends post of you**
- **Videos you post**
- **Activities you talk about**
- **Your work activities**
- **Your relationships with family, friends, etc.**

The information about you that is on websites, video and photo sharing sites, and social networking profiles could *destroy* your accident case.

If you have been involved in an accident and are bringing a case against the party that is responsible for your injuries, you must be mindful of what you post and what others post about you on the internet. Even if you think your posts are perfectly innocent, insurance companies will take bits and pieces of information about you and use it to try to build their case against you. In addition to being aware of what you post and what others post about you on the internet it is also a good idea to increase your privacy settings so that insurance companies and other people you may not want seeing your private and personal information do not have full access to your profile.