

Calculating the Worth of a Car Wreck

THE INFOGRAPHIC

Compensatory damages are a specific type of damages that an attorney will seek in court, awarded to **compensate someone for what they have lost**, to make them “whole.”

There's no set figure or formula for determining the exact value of a car accident. Some are worth a **few thousand dollars**, while other accidents may be worth **millions**.

Generally, the value of a case is based **on the injuries the victim sustained**. For example, a case in which the accident victim suffers a sprain isn't going to be worth the same amount as a case in which the victim breaks bones or suffers a traumatic brain injury.

ECONOMIC DAMAGES

EASY TO CALCULATE

- Emergency medical bills
- Medications
- Physical therapy
- Long-term health care
- Lost income (from not working)
- Routine household expenses (utilities, rent, etc.)
- Home healthcare assistance
- Child care
- Transportation costs

NON-ECONOMIC DAMAGES

HARD TO CALCULATE

- Diminished quality of life
- Emotional distress
- Pain and suffering

WAYS TO CALCULATE

NON-ECONOMIC DAMAGES

MULTIPLIER METHOD

A jury will consider the **severity of the injuries** and assign a number from **1-5** as a multiplier.



They will then apply the multiplier to the economic damages, to determine the non-economic damages.



The two added together become the **total award for compensation**.

DAILY RATE METHOD

A jury uses a “**daily rate of suffering**” as the multiplier for non-economic damages.

Using a range from **1.5 to 5**,

- 1.5
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
- the jury will determine the **daily amount to be awarded**.

For instance, if your injury had you miss work for **200 days**, and the daily amount awarded is **\$200 a day**,



then the award would be **\$40,000**.



WHAT IS A COMPENSATORY CAP?

Sometimes a limit is placed on non-economic damages.

This is called a compensatory cap. These caps **limit the amount** that someone is entitled to for **pain and suffering** at a maximum amount, often at **\$250,000 plus the amount of economic damages** for a total award.

INJURED IN A CAR ACCIDENT IN KANSAS? CONTACT