

CONFIDENTIAL CASE INTAKE SUMMARY

CLIENT INFORMATION & CASE TYPE

Contact Information

Name: Jennifer Liu
Phone: 415-555-7721
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Case Classification

Case Type: Personal Injury
Sub-type: Dog Bite
Date Processed: November 26, 2025
Intake ID: 041f0f10

ATTORNEY ACTION NEEDED

Priority: HIGH

- File police report and animal control report immediately to document incident and establish dog bite history
- Send preservation letter to Mike (unit 2B) and building management demanding Lemonade renters insurance policy information and claim number
- Obtain statement from building manager regarding prior aggressive behavior and attempted bite incident, and request any written complaints or incident reports
- Contact other neighbor who was allegedly bitten previously to document pattern of aggressive behavior
- Obtain all medical records from urgent care facility and follow-up provider, including photographs of wound
- Research local dog bite statute (strict liability vs. one-bite rule) and statute of limitations
- Assess whether additional damages exist: scarring evaluation by dermatologist, potential cosmetic treatment costs, lost yoga instruction income if applicable

RED FLAGS

- No police report filed
- No animal control report
- Neighbor's refusal to provide insurance information
- Client's emotional state seems more focused on neighbor than injury

CASE VIABILITY

Assessment: MEDIUM VIABILITY

Liability appears clear (unprovoked bite, off-leash dog in common area), but case has significant weaknesses: no contemporaneous documentation (police/animal control reports), minimal medical treatment (\$925 specials), delayed photo evidence, and major collectability concerns. Defendant is individual tenant who may have limited assets; renters insurance coverage uncertain and may exclude dog bites or have low limits. Prior aggressive behavior strengthens case but is unverified. Statute of limitations not immediate concern (incident 1 month ago).

Case may be more suitable for small claims court given low damages and collection risk, though potential insurance recovery and scarring to professional yoga instructor's visible arm provides some upside. Recommend contingency fee analysis before acceptance.

PRELIMINARY VALUE ASSESSMENT

Estimated Range: \$3,000 - \$12,000

Confidence: 60%

Note: This is a preliminary estimate only and not a legal opinion or guarantee.

Basis: Medical specials total \$925. Dog bite with 2-inch scar on visible area (forearm) for yoga instructor creates legitimate cosmetic damages. Typical multiplier of 3-5x for pain/suffering and scarring yields \$2,775-\$4,625, plus specials. However, collection concerns (individual defendant with renters insurance that may have limited coverage or exclusions for dog bites), lack of documentation (no police/animal control report), and relatively minor injury limit value. If jurisdiction has strict liability dog bite statute and insurance confirms coverage, value could reach \$10K-\$12K. Without insurance confirmation or proof of prior incidents, settlement likely \$3K-\$6K range.

ACCIDENT SNAPSHOT

Date: 2024-10-12

Location: Apartment building lobby, Castro St (unit 2A)

Client Vehicle: (Not available)

Other Driver: Mike (last name unknown, unit 2B)

Other Vehicle: (Not available)

Police Report: No

Ambulance: No

INJURY / ISSUE SUMMARY

Bitten by neighbor's dog, resulting in a scar.

TREATMENT TIMELINE

2024-10-12: Urgent care same day - tetanus shot, antibiotics, 4 stitches for left forearm bite

Unknown: Follow-up visit - \$200

2024-10-15: Photos taken of bite (3 days post-incident)

Current: Scar approximately 2 inches, healing okay, no infection

KEY FACTS

- Client: Jennifer Liu, age 34
- Incident date: October 12
- Dog: Pitbull mix named Zeus
- Location: Apartment building on Castro St, units 2A and 2B
- Bite occurred in lobby while getting mail
- Medical treatment: Urgent care visit, tetanus shot, antibiotics, 4 stitches
- Total medical bills: \$925
- Neighbor: Mike (last name unknown), has renters insurance
- Neighbor initially agreed to pay medical bills but is now unresponsive

MISSING INFORMATION

- Last name of neighbor Mike
- Whether a police report should be filed
- Whether an animal control report was filed
- History of the dog's aggression officially documented
- Photos of the bite taken immediately after the incident

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Case Summary

Jennifer Liu, a 34-year-old yoga instructor, was bitten by her neighbor's dog, a pitbull mix named Zeus, on October 12 while getting her mail in the lobby of their apartment building. The bite occurred on her left forearm, breaking the skin and requiring urgent care treatment, including a tetanus shot, antibiotics, and four stitches, resulting in a scar. Jennifer is seeking compensation for her medical bills totaling approximately \$925 and for the scar's impact on her profession.

The neighbor, Mike (last name unknown), initially agreed to cover the medical expenses but has since become unresponsive. There are concerns regarding the lack of a police report and animal control report, as well as the dog's previous aggressive behavior. Jennifer is unsure about the next steps and whether to pursue small claims court.