

How what you put on social media can be used against you

A recent Decision of the District Court in Brisbane highlights the danger of posts on social media. A young lady made a claim for financial compensation after a fixed stage light fell on her head at the Woodford Folk Festival. The organisers of the festival (through their insurance company) accepted that there was a fault, so acknowledging responsibility to pay compensation. However, there was dispute about the payout price.

The claim was unable to be resolved by negotiation. This meant that the case required adjudication by a Judge at Trial. During the Trial there was much debate about the nature of the injuries from the accident and the extent which the injuries had intruded on the Claimant's lifestyle. It was in that context that reference was made to posts on the Claimant's Facebook account which showed her involved in social and enjoyable activities, which was in contrast to the testimony that she gave to the Court about the detriment to her life after the accident. The Judge decided that the Claimant was deliberately dishonest.

The outcome was that the Judge awarded only a minor amount of compensation (being \$6,000.00) because the Judge considered that the injury was only a temporary emotional condition.

The lesson learned is, think about how your post is going to affect you and your surroundings before you post online.

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