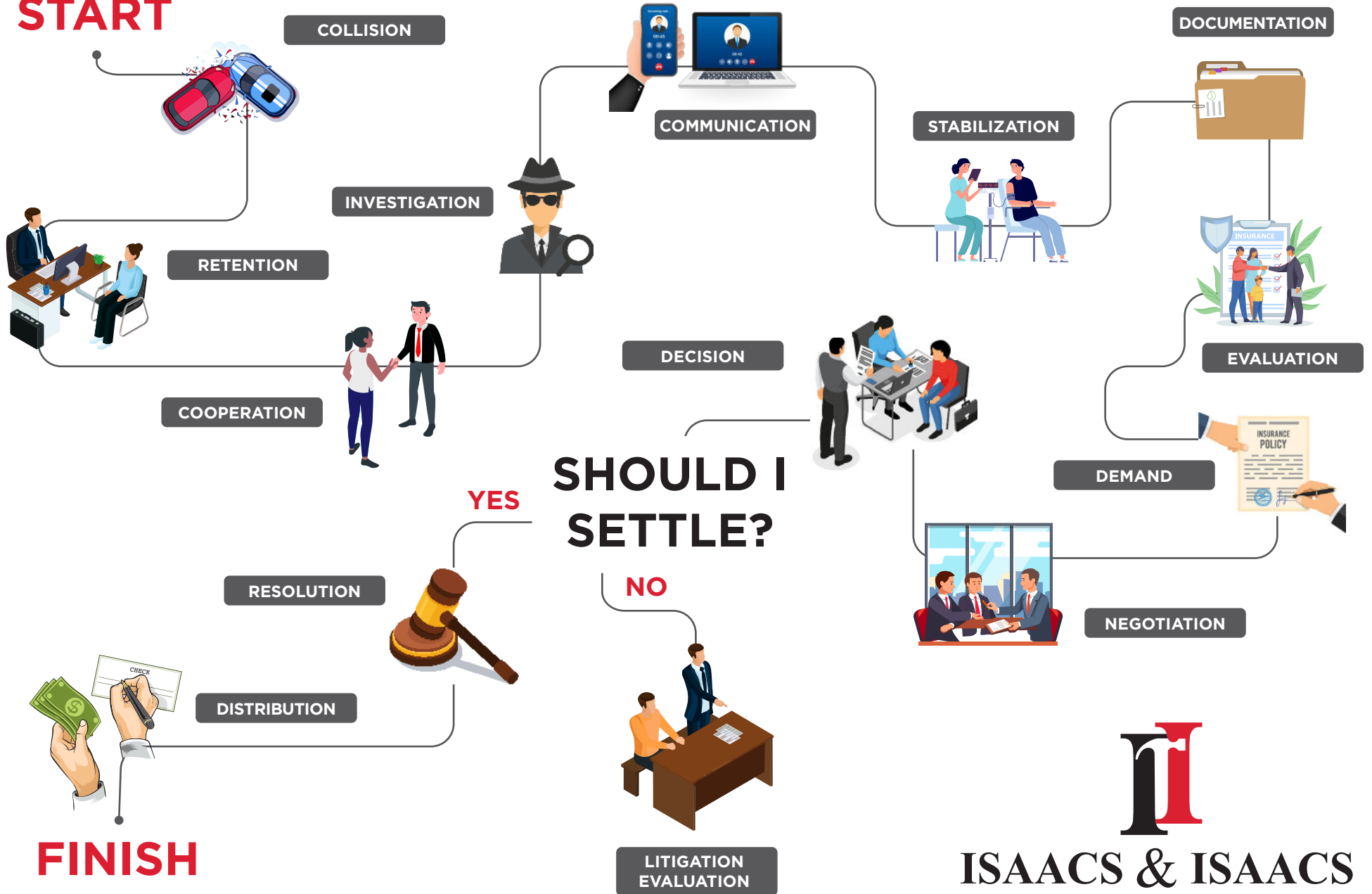


START



FINISH





COLLISION

Accidents and injuries caused by the negligence of another can happen anywhere.



RETENTION

Personal injury lawyers handle cases for a contingency fee, which is a percentage of the amount recovered.



COOPERATION

The client, personal injury lawyer, paralegal, and support staff must work together on the case.



INVESTIGATION

The lawyer identifies the responsible parties, contacts witnesses, and verifies insurance coverage.



COMMUNICATION

Frequent exchange of information is essential to the success of the case.



STABILIZATION

Injured accident victims remain under a doctor's care until all injuries have resolved or permanent condition stabilizes.



DOCUMENTATION

The lawyer gathers medical records, bills, wage loss verification, and other documentation of damages.



EVALUATION

Determining the value of a personal injury case requires evaluation of several factors, including severity of the collision, injuries involved, insurance coverage, and assessment of fault.



DEMAND

All supporting documents are presented to the insurance company with a demand for settlement.



NEGOTIATION

The negotiation phase consists of the insurance company's response to the initial demand for settlement and often includes numerous exchanges of counteroffers between the sides.



DECISION

The client and lawyer will then discuss whether the offer is fair and decide if the client wants to accept the settlement or should sue instead.



RESOLUTION

If the client and lawyer believe the offer is fair and accept the settlement, then the case resolves by exchanging a written release of all claims for the settlement check in the agreed-upon amount and moves to distribution.



LITIGATION EVALUATION

If an acceptable settlement is not reached, then the client will have the option to consider suing or "litigation." This begins with our team of litigation attorneys reviewing the client's file to determine how best to proceed and usually involves the client (the "plaintiff") filing suit against the responsible parties (the "defendant" or "defendants"). If suit is filed, it usually takes at least one (1) to two (2) years before the case goes to trial. If successful at trial, it can sometimes take even longer to collect on a final judgment.



DISTRIBUTION

Settlement funds are distributed to the client from the personal injury lawyer's firm's account after the contingency fee, case expenses, and any liens resulting from relevant medical care have been paid.



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PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS