

MINOR SETTLEMENTS IN WASHINGTON STATE

When a child is injured due to someone else's negligence — such as in a car accident, dog bite, or premises injury — Washington State law requires court approval of any settlement to ensure the minor's best interests are protected.

This process adds an extra layer of oversight to safeguard the child's future.



PETITION FOR APPROVAL



In WA, any settlement involving a minor (under age 18) must be reviewed and approved by a judge. This ensures that the settlement is fair and funds will be protected.



GUARDIAN AD LITEM



The court appoints a
Settlement Guardian ad
Litem who meets with the
family and evaluates the
proposed settlement and
recommends whether it is
fair and appropriate.



COURT HEARING



A judge reviews the settlement terms, hears input from the GAL, and determines whether to approve the agreement. An order is signed formalizing the minor's settlement.



FUNDS MANAGEMENT



The court order will determine how the settlement funds are managed until the child turns 18. Options include blocked accounts and structured settlements.

At Armstrong Injury Law, we guide families through every step of this process — from negotiating the settlement to preparing the court petition and attending the approval hearing. We explain all available options, ensure compliance with Washington State rules, and work to secure a financial outcome that supports the child's long-term needs.



