

The Michigan PI Firm Playbook for 2026

How No-Fault Reform and Rising Case Complexity Are Reshaping PI Firms and What Forward-Looking Firms Are Doing About It

Executive Summary

Michigan's PI legal landscape was fundamentally reshaped by Public Acts 21 and 22 of 2019. What was marketed as insurance cost reform has created a more complex, documentation-intensive, and unpredictable litigation environment. This paper covers three realities facing Michigan PI attorneys today: the legal changes impacting case strategy, where firms are leaving money on the table, and how leading firms are using Supio to adapt and win.

Key Numbers at a Glance

Michigan PI cases are worth significant money. Moderate injuries settle between \$50K and \$150K+, severe cases reach \$250K to \$750K+, and catastrophic injuries can hit seven figures. [1]

That value is at risk. The reform's 45% cut to provider reimbursements created treatment gaps across the state and gave insurers a reliable way to push settlements down. [2] Most firms are not losing cases on the law. They are losing value on documentation.

Supio closes that gap. Clients settle 28% higher on average, backed by \$1B+ in settlements across 100,000+ cases processed. [3]

What Changed and Why It Matters

No-Fault Reform (Public Acts 21 & 22 of 2019)

Drivers now select from tiered PIP coverage levels (\$50K, \$250K, \$500K, or unlimited). Every case now begins with a coverage question. Miss it early and you risk building a strategy against the wrong ceiling. [4]

Increased Tort Litigation Under MCL 500.3135

With PIP benefits capped, more injured parties pursue non-economic damages through tort, requiring proof of "serious impairment of body function." Two cases define the current landscape: *Andary v. USAA Casualty Insurance Co.* (benefit cap retroactivity) and *Douglas v. Allstate Insurance Co.* (medical necessity disputes). Both underscore the need for airtight documentation. [5]

Out-of-State Driver Restrictions (MCL 500.3113(c))

Out-of-state drivers are excluded from PIP benefits, pushing cases directly into tort. Higher potential value, but requires a deeper litigation strategy from intake. [6]

Where Michigan Firms Are Losing Case Value

The reform's fee schedule cut reimbursements to providers by 45%. A 2022 study by the Michigan Public Health Institute found that 10% of patients who lost care were hospitalized and 20% had to switch to Medicaid. [2] Fewer providers accept No-Fault patients, creating treatment delays. Delays create gaps. Gaps create opportunities for insurers to challenge medical necessity. The result: cases that should settle in the \$250K to \$400K range are resolving significantly below their potential value. The legal argument is sound; the documentation is not.

The following scenarios illustrate patterns documented across Michigan PI practices as a result of these conditions:

Coverage Tier Missed at Intake

Client elected \$250K PIP cap. Cap not identified at intake; strategy built against unlimited PIP.

Estimated value lost: \$125K+.

Pattern documented under tiered PIP system, PA 21 & 22 [4]

Treatment Gap Exploit

A 4-week treatment delay gave the insurer grounds to challenge medical necessity. Fee schedule reductions reduced provider availability, making delays more common.

Settlements reduced 30-40% in documented gap disputes.

MPHI 2022 study; Marko Law 2025-26 analysis [2][7]

Document Overload

Cases with 1,500+ pages of medical records routinely bury key liability details. PI firms record an average of 181,064 expenses per case.

Delayed resolution and reduced negotiating leverage.

MyCase 2024 Benchmark Report [8]

The Operational Gap: Expertise Is Not the Problem

Michigan PI firms are not losing case value because their attorneys do not know the law. They are losing it because their workflows were not designed for a post-reform environment. Manual review of large case files is slow, error-prone, and expensive. Insurance companies' first settlement offers run an average of 40 to 60% below what claimants ultimately receive after negotiation, which means the pressure to build stronger documentation faster has never been higher. [9]

Supio Agent doesn't just process files faster. It builds institutional memory from your firm's own history, applying your judgments, templates, and case patterns to every new matter. The result is not only faster output; it is output that reflects how your firm wins.

"Having AI, having Supio has been an equalizer in a lot of ways. I don't need the huge staff that necessarily a large firm has to get the same analysis and outcome for all the information we're processing."

Brian Galligan, President & Owner, Galligan Law [10]

How Leading Michigan Firms Are Adapting

The firms outperforming competitors in 2026 share three practices:

1. They analyze PIP coverage at intake, before any strategy is set
2. They identify documentation and treatment gaps within days, not weeks
3. They use technology to build stronger liability narratives faster than opposing counsel can respond

"It sends a pretty clear message to defense teams and insurance companies. You're going to have to deal with this a lot faster than you thought."

Jay Stefani, Managing Partner, Levinson & Stefani [11]

supio.com/customers/levinson-stefani

Where Supio Agent Fits

Supio Agent is the first end-to-end agentic AI platform built exclusively for plaintiff law, designed around the realities of personal injury caseloads: fragmented medical records, coverage complexity, and the pressure to build strong demands fast.

What Supio Agent Does

Rapid Case Analysis: reviews large document sets and surfaces critical facts at intake

Medical Timeline Reconstruction: connects fragmented records and flags treatment gaps before insurers do

Coverage Insight: identifies PIP limits and coverage exposure from policy documents at intake

Demand Drafting: generates structured demand letters grounded in case-specific facts and medical timelines

Case Signals: identifies undiagnosed injuries, documentation gaps, and case vulnerabilities [3]

Unlike point tools that work one file at a time, Supio Agent operates simultaneously at the case level, across your entire caseload, and across your whole firm, getting sharper the more your firm uses it. It is also the only legal AI with direct access to Thomson Reuters Westlaw Advantage, so every legal citation can be verified against the authoritative source every judge uses.

"It could take 80 hours to build a chronology, economics tab, and demand letter. Supio does it in moments. It gives everybody the same understanding and the same work product regardless of who's touching the file."

Amber Fernatt, Senior Paralegal / Pre-Litigation Manager, Law Offices of J.Chrisp [12]

What This Means for Your Firm in 2026

Michigan's No-Fault reform is not a temporary disruption; it is the permanent operating environment for PI law in this state. Three priorities for 2026:

1. Audit your intake process for coverage identification; it is the single highest-ROI change most firms can make
2. Invest in technology that closes documentation gaps before insurers open them
3. Measure case prep speed as a competitive metric; firms that move faster build stronger positions

To see what Supio Agent can do for your Michigan practice, visit supio.com/request-a-demo

Supio. Win bigger. Win faster. Win smarter.

[1] Average Car Accident Settlement in Michigan (2026 Guide) - Sinas Dramis Law Firm: <https://sinasdramis.com/average-car-accident-settlement-in-michigan-2026-guide/>

[2] Auto No-Fault Impact on Care - Michigan HomeCare & Hospice Association (citing MPHI 2022 study): <https://www.mhha.org/auto-no-fault/>

[3] Supio Platform Statistics: <https://www.supio.com>

[4] Michigan No-Fault Reform Overview - Michigan Auto Law: <https://www.michiganautolaw.com/no-fault/reform/>

[5] Michigan Personal Injury Laws Overview - Hanflik Lawyers: <https://www.hanfliklaw.com/michigan-personal-injury-laws/>

[6] No-Fault Reform and Out-of-State Drivers - Sinas Dramis: <https://sinasdramis.com/no-fault-reform-out-of-state-drivers/>

[7] Inside Michigan's New No-Fault Changes (2025-26) - Marko Law: <https://www.markolaw.com/post/inside-michigans-new-no-fault-changes-what-drivers-must-know-in-2025-26>

[8] Personal Injury Law Statistics - CasePeer (citing MyCase 2024 Benchmark Report): <https://www.casepeer.com/blog/personal-injury-statistics/>

[9] Personal Injury Settlement Statistics & Data 2025 - [FairSettlement.org](https://fairsettlement.org/statistics): <https://fairsettlement.org/statistics>

[10] Galligan Law Customer Story - Supio: <https://www.supio.com/customers/galligan-law>

[11] Levinson & Stefani Customer Story - Supio: <https://www.supio.com/customers/levinson-stefani>

[12] Paralegals at J. Crisp Law - Supio: <https://www.supio.com/customers/paralegals-at-j-chrisp-law-reclaimed-80-hours-per-case-through-supio-ai>