

Stephen Z. Williamson:

In cases involving the City of New York, in cases where the city has acted improperly or negligently and they're going to be the defendant in a lawsuit, not only do you have to file a Notice of Claim and file it timely within the 90-day deadline, but after that, in almost every case, the city asked for, and is entitled to, what's known as a 50-H hearing.

And in its simplest terms, a 50-H hearing is like a deposition. The only difference is that, one of the differences is that a deposition happens after a lawsuit is filed and within the context of a lawsuit. The 50-H is the opposite. The 50-H happens before the lawsuit is filed. A representative of the City of New York, either a lawyer or one of their investigators, has a right to ask the plaintiff, or the claimant at that time, because it's before the lawsuit is filed, a series of questions, in a proceeding that's under oath, that's like a deposition.