Negligence is a failure to take reasonable care to avoid causing injury or loss to another person. There are four steps in proving [negligence](http://www.lawhandbook.sa.gov.au/go01.php#idp5449200).

The [plaintiff](http://www.lawhandbook.sa.gov.au/go01.php#idp5514832) must prove:

* that the defendant had a duty in the circumstances to take care ([duty of care](http://www.lawhandbook.sa.gov.au/go01.php#idp5264880))
* that the behaviour or inaction of the [defendant](http://www.lawhandbook.sa.gov.au/go01.php#idp5226464) in the circumstances did not meet the standard of care which a reasonable person would meet in the circumstances (*breach of duty*)
* that the plaintiff has suffered injury or loss which a reasonable person in the circumstances could have been expected to foresee (*damage*)
* that the damage was caused by the breach of duty *(causation)*.