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A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION • TRIAL ATTORNEYS

CLAIMS/CASES

- Automobile Accidents
- Dangerous Products
- Medical Malpractice
- Nursing Home Negligence
- Industrial Accidents
- Construction Accidents
- Recreational Accidents
- Explosions, Electrocutation
- Insurance Claims
- ...and many others.

Auto accidents

***“When I was in a crash, I didn’t think I was injured.
The next week, however, my neck really started to hurt!”***

Even though you can walk away from a fender bender, never decline medical attention at the accident scene.

Here’s why.

When a driver’s or passenger’s body suffers the shock of impact during an auto-accident collision, injury symptoms may not show up for days. In fact, many victims do not start feeling head, neck, and back soreness, stiffness, and pain for two to six months. Some accident experts testify that symptoms may actually worsen after more than a year following a serious collision.

Never say “I’m OK” after an accident. Never admit fault. And never refuse medical attention.

If you’ve been in an accident and have questions about a personal injury claim, please contact us.

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Winter sports injuries

Americans love to ski and snowboard because the sports challenge, exhilarate, and delight enthusiasts. But speeding downhill is sometimes risky, and injuries are not uncommon.

Unfortunately, skiing and snowboarding injuries run the gamut from scrapes and bruises to broken bones and head and spinal injuries.

Although many injuries occur because enthusiasts make judgment errors, some arise from others’ negligence.

Accidents commonly caused by others’ carelessness include:

- Absent or insufficient hazard-warning signage.
- Collisions with other skiers or snowboarders.
- Accidents with negligently operated facility vehicles.
- Falls on improperly designed or maintained slopes.
- Deficient or negligent ski or snowboarding instruction.
- Equipment problems with bindings, gloves, helmets, poles, ski boots, skis, or snowboards.
- Poorly maintained lift machinery.

If you or a family member suffers a skiing or snowboarding injury that you suspect may have been caused by another’s negligence, please obtain medical assistance and seek the counsel of an experienced attorney.



REFERRALS

We want you to think of us as your law firm.

If you have legal matters that need attention, please let us know. If we cannot handle the matter, we will refer you to a competent firm that can.

Please feel free to refer us to your family, friends, and neighbors for their legal needs. We welcome the opportunity to help.

Good people who happen to be good lawyers.

ECONOMIC LOSSES

If you wonder what economic losses from a personal injury or other harm means, we'd like to explain.

When someone is injured because of another's negligence, an attorney's duty is to obtain restitution to compensate for harm and losses.

Lesser harm

Many cases involve lesser harm—for example, when a victim is expected to fully recover from injuries sustained in a minor auto accident. Here, economic losses usually means recovering the cost of short-term medical costs and related care, such as hospital expenses, physician's costs, home health care, rehabilitation services, or skilled nursing. Income loss is often another short-term harm. The attorney can seek to recover past income losses from the accident as well as future losses if the victim cannot do the same kind of work as before the accident.

Serious injury

In cases where a victim is seriously injured—a baby negligently harmed during childbirth, for instance—the attorney may require that a life-care planner meet with the victim, parents or guardians, physicians, and others to address issues and expenses required to facilitate the victim's independence and improve his or her quality of life. Costs may include funding education, future medical care, home health care, medical equipment, occupational therapy, physical therapy, residence remodeling, social skill development, speech therapy, and others—all designed to provide the young victim as productive and full a life as possible.

Generic drug effectiveness and safety

Although the Food and Drug Administration requires generic medications to work in the same way as brand-name equivalents, some medical experts claim they do not.

On occasion, patients who switch to generics to comply with health-plan requirements or to save money complain that generics do not work well, symptoms return, or health conditions worsen.

If you suspect your medication is not performing properly or that you may have suffered injury from a prescribed or required generic medication, here are several options:

- 1) Talk to the prescribing physician.
- 2) Retain all packaging and instructions.
- 3) Write a journal about your results and side effects.
- 4) Ask for an alternate generic drug.
- 5) Consult an attorney.

Research has shown that the generic form of Wellbutrin® may not treat depression as effectively as the brand-name product. Although the generic has the same active ingredient, it is released at a different rate, possibly putting users at risk.

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Product RECALLS

questions and answers

Q: How do "problem products" get recalled?

A: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), with jurisdiction over 15,000 kinds of consumer products, announces recalls of products presenting significant risk because they may be defective, can harm consumers, or violate a CPSC safety code.

Q: Why are there so many recalls?

A: As Americans continue to seek different and cheaper products, there are always domestic and foreign manufacturers and marketers who will cut safety corners to compete.

Nursing home negligence

Residential care for elderly nursing home residents is not always delivered as promised in marketing brochures.

Should a safety or injury issue arise, it is often difficult to establish causes of problems. Staffs are reticent to talk, and the elderly may be unwilling or unable to explain what happened.

Responsible adults who suspect that nursing home care is deficient or has resulted in injury should get medical care for the loved one, notify residence management of concerns, and seek legal counsel. Attorneys familiar with nursing homes can help elderly loved ones receive a high level of care or determine the causes of injuries and hold the responsible parties accountable.

Vulnerable resident

The family of an 89-year-old woman who died from an infected bedsore sued her nursing facility. After the family's attorney proved the residence was negligent in understaffing, delaying treatment for a fractured hip, and failing to change the patient's positioning, a jury awarded a \$29.1 million verdict.



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Q: *How can I find which products have been recalled?*

A: Go online to cpsc.gov, where you will find plenty of information.

Q: *Can I report a product that I suspect is faulty?*

A: Yes. You can contact the CPSC in several ways:

- Reach the CPSC's Web site online at cpsc.gov.
- E-mail your product concerns to hazard@cpsc.gov.
- Fax a letter to CPSC at (301) 504-0124.
- Write a letter to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Injury Report, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814.

DRIVING & TEXTING

Texting while driving is DANGEROUS.

Federal government employees are forbidden to text or use cell phones while driving official vehicles. Many states have made texting while driving illegal.

One study showed that texting drivers were six times more likely to get into an auto accident. Another study indicated the increased danger was 23 times worse.

Drivers, especially teens, should understand the hazards of taking their eyes off the road for even just a second or two. Authorities recommend that if drivers must text, they should pull off the road, stop, and then communicate.

A driver dies

Parents of a young woman sued the driver of a pickup truck that crossed the center line and collided with the college student's car head-on, killing her instantly. Their attorney's research showed that the pickup's driver was sending and receiving text messages at the time of the collision. A jury found the texting driver grossly negligent and awarded the college student's parents \$21 million.

Drivers should understand the hazards of taking their eyes off the road for even just a second or two.



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The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for professional legal advice. For your specific situation, please consult the appropriate legal professional.

How safe is your rental car?

Most of us rent cars and believe rentals are as safe as our personal vehicles. For the most part, rentals are pretty safe.

A renter can always ask the agent if the car has had a maintenance inspection or what to do if it breaks down. A renter can also check tires, mileage, lights, wipers, and other safety features. Look for the owner's manual in the glove box.

An unsafe rental

If rental-car maintenance has been neglected and causes injury, injuries and our civil justice system can fairly address the injuries of those harmed. Two sisters who rented an auto lost control and were killed in a fiery collision. Their parents' attorney sued after discovering the rental company had negligently failed to heed a manufacturer's recall notification that the car's power steering hose could leak, catch fire, and cause crashes. The car had been rented four times following the recall. The parents fought the case for five years, after which a jury awarded them \$15 million in damages.



If ambulance medical service is poor or injures patients, our civil justice system can provide remedy.

AMBULANCE CARE

When we call 911 for emergency medical assistance, we expect safe and professional ambulance service care, including:

- + 24/7/365 availability.
- + Speedy arrival and urgent transport to a medical care center.
- + Professionally certified, caring, and courteous medical technicians or paramedics.
- + Thorough emergency personnel knowledge and application of medical procedures and protocols.
- + A clean and comfortable ambulance equipped with medical equipment, medications, or other necessary materials on board to keep a patient stable.

ONE MOTHER'S EXPERIENCE

Thirteen minutes into her drive, an expectant mother's water broke and her 25-week-old baby was delivered prematurely on a 90-minute trip to a hospital on the far side of her state.

After her newborn infant suffered cerebral palsy injuries as a result of her care, the mother's attorney sued the ambulance service for reckless and gross deviation from an acceptable standard of care. The mother's attorney claimed a paramedic failed to properly administer a morphine injection to the mother and provided negligent care for the infant, who suffered a lack of oxygen to his brain.

A jury awarded a \$10 million verdict for the mother's birth injury and lifetime care for her baby.