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DANGER ZONE: Office Accidents



Workplace accidents aren't just for construction zones and warehouses, or other worksites featuring heavy equipment and a lot of action. A surprising number of accidents happen in offices. When employers fail to provide a safe working environment, accidents and health conditions can result. For example, poor lighting, exposed cables and wires,

and poorly maintained facilities can all lead to injury-causing accidents.

SLIP, TRIP, AND FALL HAZARDS—According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the most common cause of falls in an office environment are items left out of place, like boxes in a walkway or low drawers that have been left open. Unsecured cords that run across hallways, uneven flooring, and poor lighting also contribute to office slip-and-falls.

POOR WORKSTATION SETUP—Desks and work areas are not one-size-fits-all. A workstation should be designed for a specific job and adjusted to fit individual employees. Sitting at a station that doesn't support the body can lead to musculoskeletal conditions in the neck, back, shoulders, arms, and hands. Carpal tunnel syndrome, which affects the hands, wrists, and arms, is one example.

POOR INDOOR AIR QUALITY—When you think of toxic exposure, an office isn't the first place that comes to mind, but a modern office has many toxic gases and particles that are byproducts of office equipment, ink, carpets, furniture, and cleaning products. If a building's ventilation system is inadequate, toxins—as well as mold and fungus—are recirculated throughout the building and can cause symptoms such as headaches, skin and eye/nose irritation, dizziness, and fatigue.

When Does an Accident Turn into a Personal Injury Case?

Accidents happen all the time, and most can be chalked up to bad timing. But injuries can sometimes be directly attributed to the carelessness of another. In this case, the party or parties at fault should be responsible for paying damages (property as well as physical and emotional injuries) associated with the accident.

Personal injury law has a lot of gray areas, which is why people need an attorney. Basically, the plaintiff needs to prove they are injured and prove that someone else's negligence caused the injury. Here are a few questions that lawyers suggest people ask themselves when deciding whether to call an attorney:

- Did the negligent actions of another cause the injury?
- Is there physical or mental injury, substantiated by a doctor, from the accident?
- Has the injury impacted employment or resulted in lost wages?
- Did injuries result in permanent disability or require ongoing treatment?
- Has the injury impacted everyday life?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, contact our office to discuss your options.

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OFFICE HOURS

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Personal injury
- Auto and truck accidents
- Workers' compensation
- Wrongful death
- Medical malpractice
- Nursing home negligence
- Motorcycle accidents
- Railroad and boat accidents
- Premises liability

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family's safety and
security personally.*



Deadline for Filing a Personal Injury Claim

When your life changes in an instant as the result of an injury or accident, filing a lawsuit isn't the first thing that will come to mind—despite popular misconceptions of how personal injury lawsuits play out. Most people are focused on simply recovering, whether it's from the unexpected death of a loved one or from an injury.

If someone else is at fault, victims shouldn't wait to file a personal injury lawsuit until they are feeling better physically or until they have had time to grieve. By that time, it could be too late. How much time you have to file a lawsuit, also known as a statute of limitations,



varies by state and by the nature of the claim. It's generally between one and three years, but could be as long as six. Cases of medical malpractice and wrongful death typically have a shorter statute of limitations.

If you or a loved one has suffered a personal injury, contact our office as soon as possible to discuss the case.



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REFERRALS

Thanks to all of you who have recommended our firm to your relatives, friends, and neighbors. We appreciate your vote of confidence and pledge to care for these "VIPs" as well as we care for you.

Emergency Responders and Workers' Comp

Police officers and firefighters know that injury in the line of duty is a possibility, but that shouldn't stop them and other emergency responders from filing for workers' compensation. Every state has a version of a Workers' Compensation Act created to ensure that anyone injured on the job can continue to receive compensation until they are able to work and get coverage for medical bills resulting from the injury, and rehabilitation.

For firefighters, police officers, correctional officers, paramedics, and emergency technicians, states often have special provisions to ensure that they receive lost wages (even if the claimant has multiple jobs), medical benefits, vocational retraining, and even lump-sum settlements. Surprisingly, many volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers are also extended benefits for injuries and illness that occur while they are on duty.

Laws vary greatly by state and locality, so it's best to speak with an attorney who specializes in workers' compensation law.

