

SPRING 2020

Workplace Injuries and Workers' Compensation

Have you been injured at work?

Every year, three million workers suffer occupational injuries that are sufficiently serious to require hospitalization.

It is important to hold employers accountable for accidents and injuries for which they may be directly or indirectly responsible. It is also critical for injured employees to receive replacement wages, medical expenses, vocational rehabilitation, and other benefits from workers' compensation coverage supplied by their employers.

Serious workplace injuries happen all the time. Typical injuries include:

- Amputation
- Back and spine injuries
- Broken bones
- Burns from fires and explosions
- Carpal tunnel and repetitive-stress injuries
- Contact dermatitis
- Electrical shock

- Exposure to harmful substances
- Falls
- Head injuries
- Hearing loss
- Heart disease, stroke, and cardiovascular conditions
- Mental stress

- Mesothelioma and asbestos-related injuries
- Neck injuries
- Punctures
- Slips
- Tendonitis
- Toxic exposure
- Workplace violence

An attorney who understands our state's workers' compensation laws can help protect your rights. This means providing legal counsel and assistance in filing an initial claim or appealing a denial at a hearing before the proper authorities.

Maximize Your Recovery After an Auto Accident

Being in an auto accident can be overwhelming. Not only do you have to deal with injuries sustained in the accident and replacing or repairing your vehicle, you have the responsibility of figuring out who is responsible for footing the bill for damages. Aside from immediate



medical care and vehicle replacement or repair, if the accident was caused by another driver, you may be entitled to compensation for missed work/pay and ongoing therapy.

Here are a few things you should do following an accident to be sure to maximize a recovery:

DOCUMENT EVERYTHING—As soon as you are able after an accident, record and photograph everything. Write down (or voice record) every detail you can remember about the accident and photograph (if possible) damage to the vehicle, tire-tread marks, roadway damage, and accident debris. Keep a written record of your recovery as well. These notes can supplement the police report and medical documentation.

SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION—Go to the doctor right away. A seemingly minor ache in your back, shoulders, or neck can get significantly worse days after an incident. You will want to have documented that you went to the doctor or ER. Be sure to keep a record of all your doctor visits, diagnoses, and treatment plans with all your other accident documentation. If you file a claim for compensation, you will need it.

GET AN ATTORNEY—An attorney will benefit your recovery. Attorneys work with insurance companies every day. They're familiar with their techniques (e.g., lowball first offers, stalling to try to push the case beyond the statute of limitations) and know when a settlement figure is fair or not.



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We take your family's safety and security personally.

Birth Injuries

Going to the hospital to give birth should be a joyous occasion. But for soon-to-be parents, an injury caused by the medical staff responsible for the safety of the infant can change the course of their lives.

It's not just negligence on the part of the medical

staff that can cause birth injuries, but the quality, condition, and age of the medical and diagnostic equipment at their disposal.

A Pennsylvania mother and her 3-year-old daughter, who suffered severe birth injuries, were recently awarded \$78 million. The woman arrived at the hospital bleeding, nearly full term. An ultrasound determined that the baby died in utero, presumably from placenta abruption; however, the mother insisted that she felt the baby kicking and moving. Over an hour later a heartbeat was detected and the baby was delivered via C-section. Because of the delay, the child has spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy.

The facility was found at fault as the ultrasound machine had not been inspected for 10 years, despite recommended annual service, and because an ultrasound technician was not on duty.



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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.

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For your specific situation, please consult the appropriate legal professional.



Ten Reasons To Consult a Workers' Compensation Attorney

- You were injured on the job but not at your workplace, and may be eligible for workers' compensation.
- 2. You are injured, cannot work, and are not being paid.
- 3. You are suspicious about the workers' compensation insurer's motives in handling your claim.
- **4.** You are unsure of your employer's role in resolving your case.
- 5. Your employer warned you not to file a workers' compensation claim.
- 6. You are seriously injured, but your employer's doctor says it is just a minor problem.
- 7. You don't know if you can see your own doctor to evaluate your injury.
- 8. You are not sure you may be eligible for job reeducation or retraining.
- 9. Your pharmacy refuses to fill a prescription for a workers' compensation medication.
- **10.** You fear you can no longer do the job you did before your injury, but you don't know if you will be eligible for long-term or lump-sum benefits.