



MEDICAL MALPRACTICE FACT BOOK

Contact us anytime at **410-484-1111** or 888-644-3329x3 for a FREE no-obligation consultation.
www.marylandaccident.com. Email: bruceesq@sprintpcs.com.

Firm Profile



For over a decade, The Law Offices of Bruce M. Robinson have been dedicated to protecting the rights of victims who have been injured by the negligent and careless acts of others. We concentrate on medical malpractice, products liability claims, and personal injury claims, we therefore know and understand the problems that you face as a result of being injured. We will ensure you receive everything you are legally entitled to, from getting proper medical care, recovering your lost wages, and compensating you for your damages. There is no out of pocket expense to you for our services as our fee is based on our successful resolution of your case.

Retaining competent legal representation is critical to your obtaining fair and adequate compensation for your injuries and losses. We invite you to tour our website and to contact us for an immediate and free consultation to discuss your case.

An attorney is immediately available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at 410-484-1111, or by email at bruceesq@sprintpcs.com. We hope our website helps you make the decision that is right for you and your family.

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Computer Technology

With today's technological advancements, law offices that do not offer computerized case tracking and legal research, access to vital state agency databases, and up to date court decisions, simply cannot provide you the best legal services available.

Our firm is completely computerized with state of the art technology. We have immediate full time access to the most recent case law decisions from the Supreme Court of the United States to Maryland's Appellate Courts. We are connected to the State Department of Assessments and Taxation and the Maryland Department of Motor Vehicles so we do not have to wait weeks to identify parties related to a case. We are tied into the Maryland Court System and the Workers' Compensation Commission so that we have full time access to Court dockets and cases.

We also have immediate computer access to all client matters and are readily able to provide up-to-date status reports to our clients at any time. When you call our office, you will not be placed on hold so that the "attorney can locate the file." All your case information is immediately available and you will receive personal attention and service.

Choosing a lawyer is an important personal decision. We aggressively and competently represent the needs of injured victims. As a result, the firm has an excellent rating with **Martindale Hubbell Directory**, the independent lawyer rating firm which profiles the finest lawyers and law firms in the country.

What To Do If You Have Been Injured Because of Medical Negligence

If you feel that you or someone you know has been the victim of medical negligence, such as from the physician's failure to diagnose or delay in diagnosing, surgical errors, dental malpractice or improper fetal care and/or delivery of your child, it is important that you discuss your concerns with a medical malpractice attorney.

The four most common cancers are breast, colon, lung and prostate cancer according to the American Cancer Society. Early detection of the cancer before it spreads is the most important factor in determining the chance for cure. Treatment options and survival chances are directly related to and limited by the size and spread of the cancer at the time of diagnosis. While not all cancers can be detected early, many of the most common cancers can be detected through screening tests and recognition of early warning signs.

Early stage 5-year survival rates are 94% for breast cancer, 91% for colon cancer, 87% for prostate cancer, and 47% for lung cancer.

Screening tests for cancer are critical and can mean the difference between life or death. Recommendations for screening for breast cancer includes baseline and

periodic screening mammography for women beginning by age 40, physician breast examination and patient self-examination. Mammography has the ability to detect many breast cancers before they become large enough to be felt by either the physician or the patient. Screening for colon cancer includes annual testing for occult fecal blood in the stool, rectal examination by the physician, barium enema, sigmoidoscopy and/or colonoscopy beginning at age 50. Screening for prostate cancer includes blood tests for prostate specific antigen (PSA) and prostate examinations as part of a routine physical for men starting at age 40. For people with risk factors such as smoking, screening for lung cancer includes both chest x-rays and CT scanning. Many times, lung cancers develop in the bronchial airways causing pneumonias while the tumor is still small, and follow up imaging can often detect it after the pneumonia has cleared.

Delayed diagnoses can turn a treatable tumor into untreatable cancer, resulting in premature, and avoidable death. Delayed diagnoses of breast cancer can result when physicians fail to order baseline and periodic screening mammograms, when radiologists misinterpret a mammogram as "normal", and when

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treating physicians fail to perform necessary follow up testing after abnormal mammograms with repeat mammograms, ultrasounds or biopsies of a suspicious area to diagnose early breast cancer. Delays in diagnosing colon cancer can result when doctors fail to perform occult fecal blood testing and/or order diagnostic screening tests for colon cancer such as colonoscopy and/or barium enema, and when specialists fail to properly perform and/or interpret colonoscopies and barium enema examinations. Delay in diagnosing lung cancers can result when physicians fail to order chest x-rays for screening purposes and/or after pneumonias clear up, and when radiologists misinterpret chest x-rays or CT Scans of the chest as "normal." Delay in diagnosing prostate cancer can result when physicians fail to perform manual prostate examinations in men during routine physicals or fail to perform blood tests for PSA levels.

Medical malpractice cases are extremely technical and complicated. Of even more concern is the fact that the negligent act(s) that caused your injury are almost always not described or contained in the patient's file or in the surgeon's dictated operative notes. Therefore, even a thorough examination of the records may not reveal whether there was a deviation from the standard of care, causing injury. In these types of cases, a single wrong move can result in an entire case being dismissed without a recovery. The laws governing medical negligence are tough and insurance companies are tougher. Injured

victims need aggressive, experienced legal representation, specifically experienced in pursuing and recovering damages in these cases.

If you have been injured due to the negligence of a doctor there are several things you should do to protect your rights and interests. There are also several things you should NOT do. Here are some thoughts on both to help you protect your legal rights since insurance companies will do everything they can to protect theirs.

What You should Do:

1. Consult a medical malpractice attorney who can help you assess the care you received and determine whether that care deviated from the necessary standard of care required by law. It is critical that your claim be properly investigated and documented. Material witnesses must be located and interviewed, any evidence and records must be preserved.
2. Obtain medical assistance. It is important to determine what injuries you have sustained and the extent of those injuries. Injuries that occur internally can cause serious problems if not identified timely. Other injuries may not be apparent to you and you may not be aware of them until later. Some injuries can result in long term or permanent damages with

- extensive future medical needs and costs.
3. Write a detailed summary of all important facts and do not share that with anyone other than your attorney. Minor facts which may not seem relevant and may quickly be forgotten may be extremely important to your case. Therefore write down as much as possible for future use, such as: names of persons involved and any statements of liability made; relevant dates; anything that stands out or surprised you about the care you received.
 4. Obtain and save the names, telephone numbers and addresses of all persons involved in your care. This includes nurses and other medical staff.
 5. Be sure to get telephone numbers and addresses of all witnesses.
 6. Save all records and documents that are related to your case and provide them to your attorney.
 7. Take photographs of any visible injuries and damages. Be sure to develop these pictures immediately. If they do not come out well, retake the photographs before the evidence disappears.
 8. Be sure to give each doctor you see regarding your injury an accurate history of all of the physical and mental problems experienced as a result of the Doctor's negligence. Insurance companies rely heavily on what they find in your medical documentation therefore it is important to be as accurate and detailed as possible.
 9. Obtain a doctor's note for all time taken off of work as a result of your injuries, even if you are self-employed.

What You should not do:

1. Do not speak with insurance representatives. Do not give them any report about what happened. Insurance representatives are trained to contact injured victims right away. They are told to elicit written or recorded statements and to attempt to befriend you. Do not give them any recorded or written statements. Their interests are not the same as yours. Insurance adjuster's goals are to protect their insured and to limit what they have to pay to an injured victim. You need to tell any adjuster who contacts you that you have an attorney and that they should call your attorney directly.
2. Do not sign anything without the approval of your lawyer. Insurance companies and adjusters frequently request people to sign authorizations to obtain information or releases of all claims. Be sure to show these documents to your attorney before signing anything.
3. Avoid gaps of time between medical appointments and treatments, if any. Long periods of time between medical appointments are used by the defense to argue that the later treatment is not related to the injury.

To Contact Us

CALL 24 HOURS A DAY

410-484-1111

Toll Free 24 hour pager

1-888-644-3329 x3

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Main Office in Baltimore Maryland

2 Reservoir Circle, Suite 205
Baltimore, MD 21208

Directions:

Take Baltimore Beltway 695 towards Reisterstown Road Exit 20. Exit from the beltway at exit 20 Reisterstown Road and proceed North Bound (outside the beltway). The first traffic light will be Hooks Lane with an Exxon station on the corner; turn right. Proceed 2/10th of one mile and turn right on Reservoir Circle. Make your next left and we are the building immediately on your right side, building 2. We are located in Suite 205. There is plenty of free parking directly outside the building.