Washington DC Medical Malpractice Lawyer

When medical care causes harm, the effects can reach every part of your life. A preventable injury may mean additional procedures, extensive rehabilitation, mounting medical bills, lost income, or the need for care that lasts a lifetime. If you or a family member has been injured because a healthcare provider failed to meet the appropriate standard of care, JGL's Washington DC medical malpractice attorneys can help you understand your legal options. We investigate the circumstances surrounding your injury, work with qualified medical professionals to evaluate what happened, and pursue compensation from those responsible. Throughout the process, we make it a priority to understand your concerns, answer your questions, and keep you informed about your case.

What Is Medical Malpractice?

Medical malpractice occurs when a healthcare provider's conduct falls below the accepted standard of care and causes injury to a patient. Negligence can occur at any stage of medical care, from evaluating symptoms and ordering diagnostic tests to performing surgery, prescribing medication, and monitoring recovery. In the most serious cases, preventable medical errors can cause permanent disabilities or death.

Types of Medical Malpractice Cases We Handle

JGL attorneys have decades of experience representing individuals and families in a range of complex medical malpractice matters. Some claims involve a single mistake, while others result from a series of failures in diagnosis, communication, or patient care. Our team investigates the medical decisions and circumstances that led to your injury, working to identify negligent conduct and the parties responsible. Our medical malpractice practice includes cases involving:

Misdiagnosis

An incorrect diagnosis can result in the wrong treatment while your actual condition goes untreated. We examine whether a provider overlooked important symptoms, misinterpreted diagnostic findings, or failed to consider an appropriate diagnosis. When an inaccurate diagnosis causes additional injury or delays necessary care, your provider may be liable.

Delayed Diagnosis or Treatment

Even when a medical condition is eventually identified, a failure to diagnose it in a timely manner can have serious consequences. A delay may allow your illness or injury to progress, reduce available treatment options or make recovery more difficult. We examine the timing of examinations, testing, referrals, and medical decisions to determine whether an avoidable delay caused additional harm.

Birth Injuries

Complications during pregnancy, labor or delivery can result in injuries that affect a child and family for years to come. We represent families whose children have suffered preventable harm because of inadequate prenatal care, failures to monitor fetal distress, improper delivery techniques, or delays in responding to an obstetric emergency.

Surgical Errors

Surgical errors can include performing the wrong procedure, operating on the wrong part of the body, damaging nearby organs, or leaving surgical instruments or materials inside a patient. We examine the procedure, the decisions made by the surgical team, and the care provided before and after surgery to identify potential negligence.

Radiology Errors

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Accurate interpretation of X-rays, CT scans, MRIs, and other diagnostic imaging is essential to identifying medical conditions and determining appropriate treatment. When a radiologist overlooks an abnormality, misreads an image, or fails to communicate a significant finding, it can lead to a harmful delay in diagnosis or treatment. The JGL team reviews imaging studies, radiology reports, and communications among healthcare providers to assess whether an error contributed to your injury.

Negligent Post-Surgical Care & Infections

Care does not end when a surgical procedure is complete. Healthcare providers must monitor recovery, recognize warning signs, and respond appropriately when complications develop. Failure to identify an infection, internal bleeding, or another post-operative complication can result in additional hospitalization, further surgery, or lasting damage. We examine whether the medical team provided appropriate monitoring and follow-up care.

Improper Medication Administration

Medication mistakes can occur when a provider prescribes the wrong drug, orders an incorrect dosage, overlooks a known allergy, or fails to identify a potentially dangerous drug interaction. Errors involving dispensing or administering medication can also create serious health risks. We investigate prescribing decisions, medication records, and the actions of the healthcare professionals involved to determine whether negligence caused your injury.

When Does Medical Negligence Become Grounds for a Lawsuit in Washington DC?

A medical malpractice claim arises when a provider fails to meet the applicable standard of care and that failure causes injury or suffering. This may include a worsened medical condition, a new physical injury, complications requiring additional treatment, or other measurable losses. Establishing a claim generally requires evidence of the provider's negligence and a connection between that negligence and the harm suffered.

The JGL team can review the circumstances of your care and determine whether the facts support a medical malpractice lawsuit in the District of Columbia.

Who Can Be Held Liable in a Washington DC Medical Malpractice Case?

Responsibility for a medical injury may extend beyond the individual healthcare provider providing the treatment. Depending on the circumstances, potentially liable parties may include physicians, surgeons, nurses, anesthesiologists, radiologists, and other medical professionals.

Hospitals, medical practices, clinics, and other healthcare organizations may also face liability when their negligence contributes to an injury or when they are legally responsible for the actions of their employees or agents. For example, a facility may be responsible for negligent staffing, inadequate policies, or failures in patient safety procedures.

How Long Do You Have to File a Medical Malpractice Claim in Washington DC?

In the District of Columbia, the time limit – or statute of limitations – for most medical malpractice claims is three years. However, certain circumstances may extend this deadline, including cases involving minors, mental incapacity, continuing treatment, or incarceration. DC also applies a discovery rule, which means the three-year period does not necessarily begin on the date the medical negligence occurred. Instead, it begins when you know, or reasonably should know, you were injured. Because determining when the statute of limitations begins can be complicated, it is important to consult an experienced medical malpractice attorney about your circumstances.

What Compensation Is Available in Washington DC Medical Malpractice Claims?

Depending on the circumstances, you may be entitled to recover both economic and non-economic damages. Economic damages address the financial consequences of your injury such as past and future medical expenses, hospital bills, rehabilitation, prescription medications, in-home assistance, lost wages, and reduced future earning capacity. Non-economic damages are those losses that do not have a direct financial value such as physical pain, emotional suffering, permanent impairment, loss of enjoyment of life, and the effect of an injury on personal relationships and everyday activities.

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How Joseph Greenwald & Laake Can Help With Your Medical Malpractice Case

JGL's medical malpractice attorneys have decades of experience handling complex injury claims and have secured hundreds of millions of dollars for clients harmed by medical negligence. When you come to us with a medical malpractice claim, we carefully investigate the circumstances, scrutinize the decisions made by healthcare providers, and identify the evidence necessary to establish liability and the full extent of your damages.

Our attorneys are experienced litigators and trial advocates who prepare cases with the expectation that they may need to be presented in court. We know how to work with medical experts, evaluate healthcare records, and explain the significance of medical findings during settlement discussions and before judges and juries.

We also know that effective representation involves more than legal strategy. The JGL team will take the time to understand what you and your family are facing, explain the legal process, and remain accessible as your case progresses. You can expect a team of capable, committed litigators who take your concerns seriously and work to pursue the best possible outcome.

Schedule a Free Consultation With Our Washington DC Medical Malpractice Lawyers

When you or a loved one has been harmed by medical negligence, knowing your rights under DC law is essential. You deserve an opportunity to understand what happened, who may be responsible, and what legal options are available. The DC medical malpractice attorneys at JGL offer complimentary, no-obligation consultations to discuss your circumstances and answer your questions. Contact us today to schedule a free consultation and learn how we can help.

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