



JACKSONVILLE CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT GUIDE

*What To Do If You're Seriously Injured
In A Construction Accident*

Edwards  Ragatz, P.A.

Personal Injury and Commercial Trials



There is no job quite like a construction job. It can be extremely hazardous and deadly at times. When things are done correctly and everyone does what they need to do to protect themselves and each other, construction sites run smoothly, but when there is negligence involved, then there can be disastrous accidents. If you

are seriously hurt on a construction site, please do not hesitate to reach out to us to set up a free consultation. Our Jacksonville construction accident lawyers will guide you through your case every step of the way and ensure that you are going to get the best possible result.

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

The statute of limitations is the amount of time in which you are allowed to bring your construction accident case. Like most personal injury cases in Florida, you will have four years from the date of the accident to bring your case. It may seem like a long time and maybe you are tempted to wait to talk to an attorney, but that is not advised at all. You will run into some issues if you are trying to get the ball rolling on a case with a week left of your statute of limitations. Once the time runs out, there is nothing we can do to help you. It is a hard deadline that you must follow. We suggest that, as soon as possible you, you contact an attorney to get started on your case. It is so important that you do this so that you have the best chance at the strongest case possible.

HOW COMPENSATION WORKS

Construction accidents function a little bit different than other personal injury cases in terms of compensation. Typically, construction accidents will leave you seeking relief through worker's compensation. This covers your medical bills and lost wages. Sometimes, that is not your only avenue for financial relief. If there has been negligence involved in your injury, then you may be eligible to bring your personal injury claim to civil court for compensation. You will have to prove that there was a supervisor, third party, coworker, or company who was responsible for keeping you safe and that you were hurt because they did not do

their job. We are able to help you with the logistics of that and we will do all the investigation to ensure we have all necessary information.

IMPORTANT FIRST STEPS AFTER YOUR ACCIDENT

The most important step is not necessarily going to be the first one you take. Most importantly, you need to seek medical attention. You will need to have your injuries looked at right away to ensure that you are not worsening your condition by ignoring it and that you are starting on the road to recovery. If you ignore the pain and try to see if it will get better on its own, you may be sorry. What might have been a smooth recovery could now involve surgery and delayed healing. Also, if you wait to seek medical attention, the insurance company will try to claim that you were not injured during your accident, that it happened at a later date or that your injuries were not bad enough to require compensation for.

The next important steps might happen first. If you are able to stay on the scene before seeking medical care, you need to do two things before leaving. You need to report your accident to a supervisor, employer, or project manager. You also need to collect evidence from the scene. That would include photos and videos of the hazard that caused your injuries as well as any obvious sign of injury on your body.

The third step is just as important as the others. You need to hire a competent and experienced attorney to help you on your journey to full and fair compensation. You want someone who specializes in [personal injury](#) and has extensive knowledge of construction accidents. Your lawyer will be able to collect further evidence, investigate the scene, and determine what the best avenue is for you to get adequate compensation.

FREQUENTLY ASKED CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT QUESTIONS



What Do I Do After a Construction Accident?

If you've been injured in a construction accident, the very first thing that you should do is report the incident to your boss or to the construction site supervisor. If you are not an employee of the company or you're not actively working on the job site, you should still do the same thing – find the supervisor or the person in charge and make sure the incident gets reported.

After you've done that, receive medical treatment. You'll want to know the extent of your injuries, and you're going to want to make sure that you are okay. Finally, I recommend talking to an attorney right away. The attorney is going to guide you through the process and, most importantly, they are going to put all of the companies and individuals on notice that a lawsuit may be coming, and they will be advised to save all of the evidence pertaining to your claim.

How Do I Pick the Right Attorney?

The other day I had a potential client contact me who had been injured in a construction accident. She wanted to know how to choose the best attorney her construction accident claim. What you want to ensure is that, first off, you select a firm or an attorney that is respected and known for taking cases to trial. You want to signal to the insurance company that you have an attorney that will take the case all the way to the very end, through trial, if necessary, and that they can't just expect things to resolve up front for a minimum value.

You'll also want to select a firm or an attorney that has the resources to investigate your case properly, bring it into suit, and ensure that everything that needs

to be done – such as hiring experts and obtaining medical records, – can be done without any issues as to being able to afford it.

What Are Some Common Mistakes to Avoid?

I was contacted by a potential client who had recently been in a construction accident. This person wanted to know what some of the common mistakes that should be avoided following an injury. One of those mistakes is not seeking immediate medical treatment.

Another mistake that the person may make is not notifying the supervisor or the company that is working at the job site that you have been injured. Not doing so tends to decrease the credibility of the claim, and therefore can impact the value of the case overall.

Another mistake is that people stop treatment for one reason or another. That is problematic because, again, if the injuries are serious, then the treatment should be serious as well and should continue until you are fully healed. Another mistake that people make is they don't talk to an attorney as quickly as possible, especially a firm that is willing to take a construction accident claim all the way to trial if necessary.

How Much is My Case Worth?

I recently had a client contact me who wanted to know how to determine the value of his construction accident case. I advised this client that there are multiple factors to consider, one of those being how severe and permanent the injuries are. That is something that can drive up medical costs, especially if one gets surgery or needs continued treatment. The higher the medical costs go, the more value the case has.

Another factor that can increase the value of the case is choosing the right firm or attorney to represent you. If the insurance company knows that the other side is a pushover, then they know that they can resolve the case for a minimum value. If they know that the other side is a firm or an attorney that is willing to take cases to trial, then they know that they're going to be facing a much higher risk.

Other factors to consider would be if there are pre-existing injuries that are similar to the injury that was sustained in the construction accident. There are different ways that the injuries can be aggravated by the construction accident, but it still is something that the insurance companies will consider when evaluating the case.



How Long Will This Case Take?

Clients often want to know how long their case will take. The answer really depends on multiple factors, one of those being how quickly the injured client reaches what's called maximum medical improvement, which is indicative of reaching stability. What that signals to the other side is that your injuries are permanent, and therefore it can cause a case to resolve earlier rather than later.

It also depends on if the insurance company is reasonable with their initial offers. They may look at the case and think that they can resolve it for minimal value, and they may lowball the client. If the insurance company continues to be unreasonable, then things can drag out for a much longer period of time. There are other multiple factors that can cause a case to drag out longer than it should, but there's no way to know early on how quickly the construction accident claim is going to resolve.

Should I Report My Injuries?

If you're injured on a construction site and you know who the supervisor is in charge of that site, you will want to notify them immediately. Sometimes construction sites occur in public spaces, such as hotels and shopping malls. Upon notifying whoever is in charge, you must then determine who the management company is so that you can notify them of your claim.

Can I Sue My Employer?

When injured in a construction accident, people often want to know if they can sue their employer. There are certain circumstances where this can happen. First and foremost, workers' compensation will pay for some of your medical

treatment and reimburse lost wages, but there are circumstances where an employer may have caused an extremely unsafe condition and may be liable outside of the scope of workers' compensation. If that's the case, you're going to want to hire a lawyer immediately to determine if you can sue your employer.

Do I Get Workers' Compensation?

Workers' compensation is a form of insurance paid for by your employer that provides for medical and lost wage damages that you may suffer when you're injured in a job accident. Often, your workers' compensation insurance is all that you are limited to recover, but if your injury is due to a third-party's negligence, you may be able to recover more for your damages. That's why it's important to talk to a lawyer immediately after suffering an on-the-job injury.

CONTACT OUR FLORIDA CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT LAWYER TODAY

If you have been seriously injured in a construction accident, please do not hesitate to give our office a call today to set up a free case evaluation. We want to help you build a strong case against the liable party and hold their feet to the flame so that you get the results you deserve in the end. You are a priority to us and we will make sure you feel that way. We have handled many cases just like yours and we want to support you all the way through the end. Call us today to learn more about how we can help you get the compensation you deserve.

PREPARED BY EDWARDS & RAGATZ, P.A.

Tom Edwards and Eric Ragatz have worked together for more than 10 years, and between them, they bring decades of experience to every case. Tom is a Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer, the highest specialty recognition given to lawyers handling injury and death cases and has the highest rating of AV by Martindale-Hubbell, a national attorney rating service. Eric has represented

many injured clients in complex personal injury, medical malpractice, nursing home abuse and product liability cases, and has the highest rating of AV by Martindale-Hubbell.

This experience, and the personal devotion to clients and the relentless commitment to pursue justice, is why Edwards & Ragatz, P.A. is recognized for excellence in the Jacksonville area, and throughout the state. We are a dedicated team of various fields of expertise that serve clients with compassion and the utmost professionalism, making us one of the most trusted law firms in Jacksonville. From seasoned trial lawyers to paralegals and registered nurses, you can rely on the Edwards & Ragatz, P.A. team to deliver the comprehensive service and personal care your case deserves.

If you find yourself in an unfortunate situation and need medical malpractice lawyers or a personal injury attorney in Jacksonville, we will use our legal experience and vast resources to get fair compensation for your injuries. Together, we'll put the law on your side.

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