

JACKSONVILLE WRONGFUL DEATH GUIDE

*What To Do If You Lose A Loved One
Through The Negligence Of Another*

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Personal Injury and Commercial Trials



The grief of losing someone is intense. It is particularly hard to deal with when you lose someone due to another person's negligence. If a loved one has passed away in an accident that could have been avoided, you may be able to bring a wrongful death case in the state of Florida. We know that this does not help with the

grieving, but it can help you keep your head above water and support your family after unexpected losing someone. After you learn a little bit about your case and the factors that go into making it a successful one, please call one of our Jacksonville wrongful death lawyers for a free case evaluation. We will protect your rights to full and fair compensation. We will not allow the liable party's insurance company short you. We are dedicated to getting you the best possible result.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS IN A WRONGFUL DEATH CASE

There are many possible liable parties that could be responsible for your loved one's passing. That can include one individual person, a company, or government entities. If they acted in a negligent or careless way that caused a fatality, then they can be held responsible for the death of your loved one. By law, the people who are permitted to bring a wrongful death claim and receive compensation are the spouses of the deceased, minor children of the deceased, or parents to minors who were lost in an accident. There are rare exceptions to these laws when needed. Those who bring a wrongful death claim will be receiving compensation for the following:

- » Any medical bills that are owed due to attempt at life-saving treatment
- » Expenses and costs for the funeral
- » Any lost wages or income that you would have gotten from the deceased throughout their lifetime to support the family before their untimely death
- » A loss of companionship for the surviving family members after losing this extremely important person in their life

It is very hard to determine how much compensation should be for a wrongful death because a lot of the damages are considered to be non-economic such as the loss of companionship. Many times, there has to be an expert come in and evaluate the case as determine the economical damages. They will determine the life expectancy of your loved one had this accident not killed them, and how much they might have made in their lifetime. One of our Jacksonville wrongful death lawyers will be here to guide you through this process as it is complicated and should not be a weight on your shoulders.

TYPES OF WRONGFUL DEATH CASES

Wrongful death happens when there is either a person or an entity who acts in a negligence or careless manner that results in the death of your loved one. Sometimes that means someone breached a legal obligation to keep your loved one safe. Sometimes it means that they did something that directly caused the death of your loved one. The common wrongful death cases arise from the following:

- » Auto accidents (such as car, trucks, buses, and motorcycles)
- » Slip and falls
- » Drownings in an unsafe facility
- » Medical malpractice
- » Construction accidents
- » Terrible dog attack
- » Defective products
- » Acts of violence

These all warrant you bringing a wrongful death claim and will allow you to directly bring a case against the individual or entity who is responsible for the death of your loved one. The way to win a case like this is to resolve it through negotiation outside of the court system with the help of our strong, experienced, and dedicated team of Jacksonville wrongful death lawyers.

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

Because wrongful death cases have the potential to be entirely complicated, it is so important to hire a competent attorney to help you. Our Jacksonville wrongful death lawyers have handled many cases like yours and will be more than glad to take on yours. You deserve to have your case be a priority and we want to ensure that you are being taken care of.

FREQUENTLY ASKED WRONGFUL DEATH QUESTIONS

How Do I Pick the Right Attorney?

I was contacted recently by somebody who was contemplating bringing a wrongful death claim on behalf of a loved one, and she wanted to know the best way to go about selecting a firm to represent her in her wrongful death claim. I advised her that there are multiple factors involved, but some of the most important ones would be to ensure that you select a firm that has a tremendous amount of experience in handling wrongful death claims. You want a firm that handles wrongful death claims as a focus area. You don't want to hire a firm that deals with family law or criminal law on a regular basis, but a firm that focuses on personal injury cases on a regular basis, including wrongful death.

You also want to ensure that you've got a trial firm. You don't want to retain somebody who hasn't been to trial or doesn't go to trial on a regular basis because the insurance companies know that. If you have a trial firm on your side, the insurance company is much more likely that they're going to take your claim seriously and you're going to get the maximum value out of your case. At the end of the day, if necessary, if you have a trial firm on your side, they will



take the case all the way through a jury verdict, if necessary, in order to ensure that you and your loved ones have the maximum amount of value out of your case.

Who Can File a Wrongful Death Claim?

Oftentimes people wonder who can file a wrongful death claim. In the state of Florida, a personal representative is the person that can bring a wrongful death claim on behalf of an estate or a survivor. If you are a parent that has lost a child or a spouse that has lost a husband or wife, you can bring a wrongful death claim through the personal representative.

The wrongful death statute is very complex in our state, and who can recover is even more complex. That's why it's important to seek counsel of an experienced trial firm that deals with wrongful death cases. If we can be of assistance, please contact us for a free consultation or any questions that you may have regarding pursuing a wrongful death claim.

Do I Need to Pay Attorney Fees?

Often, when people are faced with the tragedy of suffering a wrongful death in their family, they wonder about the cost of actually pursuing a claim for wrongful death damages. You can contact our office for a free consultation, and we can investigate your loved ones claim at no charge to you. Our office will fund the cost of the investigation and the litigation and we will only take a fee if we obtain a recovery for you. I encourage you to contact our office with any further questions about this type of claim.

How Much is My Case Worth?

I had a client contact me recently who had a wrongful death claim and wanted to know how to determine the value of her case. There are several factors to consider in that, and one of those is the strength of the case – how negligent or how clear was the negligence of the other side that led to the wrongful death of your loved one? You also want to consider the amount of insurance on the other side. The amount of the insurance, if it's higher, might lead to the insurance company offering a reasonable, acceptable offer to resolve the case up front.

One of the biggest factors is the firm that you retain. If you retain a trial firm that is willing to take the case to trial, which the other side knows and respects, that's going to maximize the value of your case because they're going to know that if they don't come to the table with something that is reasonable and that fairly compensates you for your wrongful death claim, the trial firm will go to trial and see the case through to a jury verdict.



How Do We Get Compensation?

If you're wondering what benefits are available on a wrongful death claim, you've likely experienced a recent tragedy in the loss of a loved one. Our law firm is here to help. It's important to contact an experienced trial attorney upon the wrongful death of a loved one. We will do our best in seeking all the damages that you are entitled to receive. Some of the damages that you may receive are for the loss of financial support from the decedent, as well as your

own pain and suffering and the loss of consortium and society that you would receive from the decedent.

If you have any further questions, please contact our office. We would like to help you through this tough time.

How Does the Insurance Investigation Work?

Oftentimes, people wonder if they should speak to an insurance company regarding their wrongful death claim. My advice is to not speak to the insurance company regarding the wrongful death claim without counsel from an experienced trial lawyer. A trial lawyer is going to make sure that your interests are protected in any potential wrongful death claim that you have.

How Long Will This Case Take?

I was asked by a client the other day how long their wrongful death claim would take. I advised this client that there are multiple factors that go into how long it lasts, and one of those is how strong the case is. If the case has a lot of strength to it and the other side recognizes that, then they're much more likely to come to the table with a reasonable offer up front. If they don't recognize that or if the

case is not strong, then they might be more likely to fight the case. If they do that, then that ends up making the case drag out longer and potentially going into suit.

Another factor that can determine how long a case lasts is if you have a trial firm retained. Again, if the other side recognizes that you have a respected trial firm representing you, then they might be more likely to come to the table up front with a reasonable, acceptable offer that fairly compensates you for your wrongful death claim.

CONTACT OUR FLORIDA WRONGFUL DEATH ATTORNEY TODAY

While we understand that nothing can bring back your loved one after you lose them due to someone else's negligence, we do know that seeking out a wrongful death claim can be beneficial for the surviving family members. We want to help you get by after this incident. If you have lost a loved one, please do not hesitate to call our dedicated and experienced Florida wrongful death attorney. We will take over every bit of legal aspect of your case so that you don't have to bear the weight of that and can tend to your family in this tragic event.

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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