

The Road To Justice Starts Here

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With summer only seven months away, millions of Americans will be gearing up to head to amusement parks, carnivals, and theme parks for thrills and excitement.

Unfortunately, dangers await them as well. Each year, on average, 10,000 people suffer injuries at parks and five people die, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. (CPSC).

Because rules on reporting amusement park accidents and injuries vary so much from state to state, and since many injuries go unreported, the true number of accident injuries is hard to determine.

The injuries that are reported range from less serious ones such as bumps, bruises and small cuts to more serious injuries such as broken bones, brain injuries, paralysis, and loss of limb. In one of the more tragic recent cases, a 13-year-old girl on a tower-drop ride at a Six Flags park in Kentucky had both of her feet severed when a

cable broke during the ride and struck the girl in the legs at a high rate of speed.

Overall, some of the main reasons for injuries at parks include:

- Rider error, such as standing up during a ride or removing restraints.
- Mechanical failure.
- Ride operator negligence, which may result from inattentiveness or failing to properly secure riders.
- Falls at entrances or exits to rides.

If you or a loved one has suffered a serious injury at an amusement park or carnival, it is important to contact an experienced personal injury attorney to determine if you may be owed damages. ■

lawsuit crisis?

Despite the constant proclamations from pundits on talk radio, the evening news, and the Web that the number of lawsuits is skyrocketing, it simply is not true. There is no lawsuit crisis in this country. In fact, the real numbers paint a far different picture than what we have been led to believe.

According to information cited by the American Association for Justice, the number of tort filings (personal injury cases) in state courts during the years 1998-2007 dropped 24 percent. And the downward trends don't stop at the state level. At the federal level, between 1985 and 2003, civil litigation filings in U.S. District Courts declined by 79 percent, dropping from 3,604 in 1985 to fewer than 800 in 2003.

Further dispelling the notion of a lawsuit crisis, the Bureau of Justice Statistics indicates that median awards from tort trials in state courts in the nation's 75 largest counties fell 18.4 percent between 1996 and 2005. In addition, as of 2005, the median jury trial award was just \$24,000.

Bottom line - our civil justice system is working, helping to hold Wall Street, drug companies, corporations and insurance companies accountable. ■

teen drivers

THE DISTURBING FACTS

For most teenagers, learning to drive and getting their license is a rite of passage they've looked forward to with excitement and anticipation for many years. Sadly, though, teens and driving can be a dangerous mix.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens. In 2008, an average of nine teens died every day from motor vehicle crashes and more than 350,000 were treated at emergency departments for injuries. In addition, per mile driven, teens from the ages of 16-19 were four times more likely to crash than older drivers.

Despite the troubling statistics, there is hope for preventing teen crashes. Research shows that states with the strictest and most comprehensive Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) systems have reduced teen fatal crashes by 38 percent, and injury crashes by 40 percent. GDL laws delay full licensure and utilize restrictions (such as limits on nighttime driving or the number of passengers allowed) to enable teens to get their initial driving experience under low-risk conditions.

Our firm strongly encourages parents to know, understand, and enforce our state's GDL laws to help keep our teen drivers safe. ■

the real statistical truth

About Preventable Hospital Errors

An average of 195,000 people in the USA died due to potentially preventable, in-hospital medical errors in each of the years 2000, 2001 and 2002, according to a new study of 37 million patient records that was released today by Health Grades, the healthcare quality company. The Health Grades Patient Safety in American Hospitals study is the first to look at the mortality and economic impact of medical errors and injuries that occurred during Medicare hospital admissions nationwide from 2000 to 2002.

The Health Grades study has been published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) in October of 2003.

It arrived at the conclusion, which found that medical errors caused up to 98,000 deaths annually and should be considered a national epidemic. The Health Grades study finds nearly double the number of deaths from medical errors found by the 1999 IOM report

“To Err is Human,” with an associated cost of more than

\$6 billion per year. “The Health Grades study shows that the IOM report may have underestimated the number of deaths due to medical errors, and, moreover, that there is little evidence that patient safety has improved in the last five years,” said Dr. Samantha Collier, Health Grades’ vice president of medical affairs.

“The equivalent of 390 jumbo jets full of people are dying each year due to likely preventable, in-hospital medical errors, making this one of the leading killers in the U.S.” “If we could focus our efforts on just four key areas - failure to rescue, bed sores, postoperative sepsis, and postoperative pulmonary embolism — and reduce these incidents by just 20 percent, we could save 39,000 people from dying every year,” said Dr. Collier.

One way you can prevent medical errors if your contemplating surgery is to get a thorough medical exam prior to any surgery and if you are not sure about the risk factors in proceeding with the surgery because of pre-existing conditions get a second opinion. ■



Important Dates

May 5: Cinco de Mayo
May 9: Mother's Day
May 15: Armed Forces' Day
May 31: Memorial Day

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Past Results do not guarantee future success. This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury cases and medical malpractice. It is not a treatise on the law. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information you should retain competent counsel of your choice.

About ED LEMMO

Edward Lemmo is an attorney with over 28 years of experience in handling and trying personal injury and medical malpractice cases. He has achieved many verdicts for the plaintiff in auto cases, trip and falls, construction accidents and medical malpractice cases. Ed is a graduate of Syracuse University School of Law and a member of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association. Ed has performed pro bono work to members of the community including a victim of 9/11. His motto is to “Plan your case and work his Plan”. Ed Lemmo gets results in many cases because of old fashion hard work and dedication to his clients. He has an open ear to your problems. If you wish to discuss your potential case with Ed call for a free consultation. Or if you wish to receive any of Ed’s free reports on medical malpractice cases or other matters download them or call toll free at 1-(844) ED LEMMO (1-844)-335-3666 or email me at edwardlemmo@yahoo.com. Ed Lemmo Esq. has satellite offices at 18 East 48th St New York, N.Y and 111 East 35th Street New York NY and other convenient of counsel locations to make it convenient for you to meet at no obligation .