

Medical Malpractice: A Leading Cause Of Wrongful Death

We depend on doctors to possess the experience, knowledge and skill to evaluate and treat and what ails us. We put our trust in physicians and see them as a calming influence during times when we are concerned about a health problem involving ourselves or a loved one.

But doctors are only human. And like everyone else, they are not immune to making mistakes. Even the most capable and competent doctors can sometimes misdiagnose an illness, prescribe the wrong medication or make an error in judgment before or during a surgical procedure.

Medical Malpractice

Medical malpractice is defined as negligence by a doctor or other healthcare provider where by act or omission, the care provided deviates from accepted standards and leads to injury or death of the patient.

Roughly 225,000 people die each year in the U.S. from some form of medical malpractice. The most common medical errors involve medication-related mistakes, responsible for causing injury to approximately 1.5 million patients every year, according to the Institute of Medicine (IOM).

Wrongful Death Lawsuits

“Wrongful death” is defined as the death of an individual directly resulting from negligence or a deliberate act on the part of another individual, company or entity. If medical malpractice is suspected in the death of a patient, a **medical malpractice lawyer** can file a wrongful death claim on behalf of the surviving family members.

Once a **wrongful death attorney** establishes the case and files a wrongful death lawsuit, the litigation proceedings begin. This can sometimes be a long, complex and painful process for the loved ones of the deceased, as no amount of financial damages can bring a family member back. But a settlement can enable a family to move forward without having the financial burden that the loss of a provider would have created.