

DUFFY + PARTNERS

PHILADELPHIA LAWYERS

- + It's more common than you may think. A patient is sent home from the emergency room with a diagnosis of stomach flu when it really is something far more serious. A doctor misinterprets symptoms that point to something potentially life-threatening. A radiologist misreads a mammogram, or a pathologist misses something on a sample. When the truth finally comes out, it can be tragic.



Everyone makes mistakes. But when you're a medical professional, the stakes are considerably higher, and errors can lead to incorrect treatment, delayed treatment or no treatment at all, with devastating results. A 2013 study in the *Journal of Patient Safety* reported that medical errors are the third leading cause of death in America, affecting between 210,000 and 440,000 patients annually. Thousands more are disabled or injured as a result of medical malpractice.

At **Duffy + Partners**, we have a great deal of experience in handling these cases. We work to uncover the truth, determine if the diagnosis was, indeed, negligent, and if there is reparation for you that can compensate for the error.

We have an established record of significant verdicts and settlements in cases of misdiagnosis, and bring you a host of other benefits, including:

- + A panel of physicians, nurses and other healthcare experts who know how to interpret medical documentation and help us build a strong case for you.
- + A special level of trust, care and compassion in understanding what you and your family are facing. We have a special bond with each and every one of our past clients, and those relationships remain strong long after the case has been won.
- + The confidence in knowing that if we represent you, it is because we believe we can win. We work on a contingency fee basis, which means if we are not successful, we receive no payment at all. When you win, we win.



VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

Here are just a few examples of significant results we have obtained for our clients:

- + In *Campbell*, **Duffy + Partners** won a **\$21,400,000** verdict on behalf of a diabetic man for treatment he received in the emergency room of Temple University Hospital. When Ronald Campbell was taken to the hospital in October of 2007, he was administered glucagons and glucopaste by emergency medical technicians, then discharged to family members, who found him unresponsive in bed the next morning. The defense argued that the treatment and discharge was proper, as Mr. Campbell had been brought to the hospital 11 times for high or low blood sugar levels in the five years prior (including one two days earlier), and that he failed to properly manage his diabetes by not complying with medical advice. However, the firm successfully argued that diabetics who suffer from repeated episodes of hypoglycemia develop a condition termed 'hypoglycemic unawareness' in which the brain becomes less sensitive to lower and lower glucose levels.
- + A young professional male visited a hospital ER in the region complaining of back pain, chest pain, headache and cough. Even though a number of tests indicated emergency surgery was needed that could not be performed at that hospital, the hospital delayed the transfer of the patient to another hospital and failed to include critical test results when he was finally transferred. Sadly, the patient died. The defendants argued that underlying medical issues, including Marfan syndrome and mitral valve prolapse, were contributing factors out of their control, that the patient was in significant end-organ dysfunction upon arrival and that he would not have survived the surgery. However, **Duffy + Partners** obtained a **\$7,500,000** settlement for his surviving wife and young child.
- + In *Smith*, **Duffy + Partners** won a **\$4,500,000** verdict against Misericordia Hospital, finding the hospital negligent in their testing and treatment of David Smith, ultimately resulting in his death. Mr. Smith was taken by his mother to Misericordia, and ultimately died of an aortic dissection after the hospital staff failed to properly recognize his condition. The jury returned its verdict after a 2-week trial, and it was reported as one of the largest malpractice verdicts in the state that year.
- + A **\$3,800,000** settlement was attained for a boy who, at 28 hours after birth, developed necrotizing endocolitis (NEC). Failure to properly diagnose the NEC resulted in a decrease in oxygen saturation that ultimately caused the boy to suffer an anoxic injury and cerebral palsy.
- + A 39-year-old man in good health was brought to the emergency room with complaints of a headache, so severe that he could not stand or function at work. After about an hour in the ER, he felt better. Without ordering a CAT scan or neurological consultation, the ER discharged him. Weeks later, the man collapsed on the street and was rushed to the hospital where imaging showed a brain lesion responsible for his headaches had ruptured, leaving him with irreversible and permanent brain damage. He never fully regained consciousness and died 3 years later. **Duffy + Partners** successfully negotiated a **\$3,500,000** settlement for the case.
- + When a young man in his 30's with a history of alcohol abuse was found unconscious at the apartment of a friend, he was brought to an area emergency room for treatment. While still in the ER, he had a series of seizures, and his condition deteriorated to the point where he was brought to the ICU and placed on a ventilator. Though he became well enough to be discharged to a rehabilitation facility, the damage had been done. His brain was injured to the point of having to re-learn basically every functional task and he now requires 24/7 supervision. Though the defendants claimed that the brain damage was from alcohol poisoning, **Duffy + Partners** brought in experts who testified that the brain damage was from hypoglycemia, which could have been easily treated and prevented brain injury. The case settled for **\$1,250,000**.

DUFFY + PARTNERS

PHILADELPHIA LAWYERS

55th Floor, One Liberty Place, Philadelphia, PA 19103
215 238 8700 DUFFYFIRM.COM

Referral fees paid pursuant to: Pa.RPC 1.5