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Atlanta

260 Peachtree St. NW
Ste. 2200
Atlanta, GA 30303
770-518-1133
Fax: 770-518-1156

Alpharetta

3650 Mansell Rd.
Ste. 100
Alpharetta, GA 30022
770-518-1133
Fax: 770-518-1156

when Tylenol does more than relieve pain

THE CONNECTION TO SEVERE LIVER DAMAGE



many people don't realize, though, is that if too much Tylenol is taken or it's taken too often, there can be serious repercussions as a result of its key ingredient – acetaminophen.

Acetaminophen is a drug that is common in many over the counter medicines that are aimed at relieving pain and reducing fever. It can also be found in medicines for colds, flu, allergies, and sleeplessness. Though very effective at doing what it's marketed to do, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has found that if the dosage guidelines for the drug are not adhered to, severe liver damage or even death can occur.

According to a report by the FDA, acetaminophen is the leading cause of acute liver failure in the U.S. and leads to approximately 56,000

When it comes to everyday aches and pains, millions of Americans turn to Tylenol for relief. What

emergency room visits, 26,000 hospitalizations and 450 deaths every year. The report says that most cases of severe liver damage occurred when more than the prescribed dose was taken over a 24-hour period. Other cases were linked to people taking more than one product at a time containing the drug or drinking alcohol while on a medication with acetaminophen as one of the active ingredients.

Prescription medicines with acetaminophen in the ingredients include Vicodin, Percocet, and Codeine. Though most problems with acetaminophen are due to not adhering to the prescribed guidelines, people taking acetaminophen while fasting or not eating because of an illness can be at risk of liver damage even when correct doses are taken. This is most readily apparent in people who have a loss of appetite due to the flu or in people who are recovering from dental procedures.

In cases in which drugs containing acetaminophen, like Tylenol, have caused extensive liver damage or death, the victim or family may be able to pursue legal action to recover compensation. ■

the staggering cost OF MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES

As attorneys dedicated to helping car and truck accident victims, we are reminded everyday of the terrible toll of motor vehicle wrecks on our society. First and foremost, obviously, is the human element, as people struggle with serious injuries or the loss of a loved one due to a crash.

But there's a very real economic toll as well.

In a startling recent study, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated the annual cost of medical care and productivity losses associated with injuries from motor vehicle crashes to be almost **\$100 billion**, with \$17 billion estimated for direct medical care alone. To put it in another way, the total annual costs amount to nearly \$500 for every single licensed driver in the United States.

According to the CDC, the one-year costs for fatal and non-fatal crash-related injuries totaled \$70 billion for people riding in cars and light trucks, \$12 billion for motorcyclists, \$10 billion for pedestrians, and \$5 billion for bicyclists.

Our firm believes very strongly that our community can play an important role in reducing the toll from motor vehicle-related injuries by supporting education and prevention policies that have been proven to save lives and reduce costs.

For more information on improving child safety and teen driver safety, reducing alcohol-impaired driving, and increasing safety belt use, please go to www.cdc.gov. ■



MALNUTRITION IN OUR NURSING HOMES: how can this happen?

You might not think of malnutrition as being a wide-spread problem in our nation's nursing homes and assisted living facilities, but that's exactly what it is, despite the fact that it typically can be prevented.

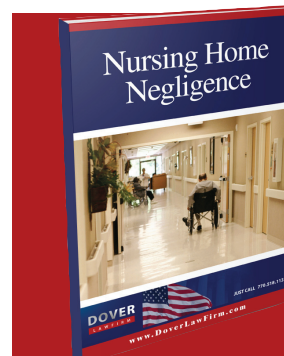
Estimates are that at least one third (and possibly a much higher percentage) of nursing home residents suffer from malnutrition. That number is especially troubling when you consider that approximately 1.5 million Americans reside in nursing homes.

So why is malnutrition such a major problem in our nursing homes?

There are several possible reasons, including chronic medical conditions or poor dental health among residents. Sometimes, however, the problem has absolutely nothing to do with a resident's health such as when it is caused by:

- Insufficient staffing
- Residents receiving no individualized care
- A high turnover rate among the nursing home staff

Nursing home malnutrition is rarely intentional, but no matter what its cause, it can have devastating consequences. Malnutrition can lead to serious health problems, including infections, confusion and weight loss, and if left unchecked, can be fatal. It also contributes to a lower quality of life for residents of nursing homes. ■



If you suspect that a loved one may be suffering as a result of nursing home negligence, request your no-charge copy of our special nursing home report.

COMMON CAUSES OF large truck accidents

The only thing more frightening than being involved in an auto accident is being involved in an accident with a large commercial truck. These trucks can weigh up to 40 tons and often stretch 80 feet in length. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), deaths in 2008 due to accidents involving large trucks topped 4,000. Approximately 69 percent of those – around 2,760 deaths – were passenger vehicle occupants.

Some of the common causes of large-truck accidents are:

- **Speeding.** Tight deadlines can tempt truck-drivers to exceed the speed limit. According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) report from 2007, 23 percent of large-truck accidents are linked to speeding.
- **Overloaded trucks.** Stopping distances for large trucks are already longer than passenger vehicles. Excessive amounts of weight due to over-storing can make braking even more difficult for the truck driver.
- **Poor maintenance.** Improper maintenance, such as the failure to check the brakes or look for signs of excessive tire wear, can be a recipe for disaster with big trucks.

- **Sleep deprivation.** Truck drivers can experience extreme fatigue while traveling since they often skip sleep or push themselves too much in an effort to get extra miles in.
- **Blind spots.** Blind spots can be deadly in any vehicle, but they are especially problematic for trucks. The FMCSA report showed 14 percent of large-truck accidents were due to inadequate checking of the blind spot.
- **Carelessness.** Driving a large truck can sometimes bring a sense of power and entitlement. This can lead to careless acts by the driver, such as failing to yield when required by law.

Other common causes for large truck accidents can include road rage and drug use by truck drivers. In fact, the FMCSA report shows that approximately 26 percent of large-truck accidents were caused by poor reaction time due to the influence of prescription or illicit drugs.

If you or a family member has been injured in an accident caused by a negligent truck driver or trucking company, contact a personal injury attorney experienced in handling large truck accident claims. ■

What Our Clients Are Saying

"I appreciate all the Dover Law Firm did for me. At the time of my accident I thought I was dealing with a long shot—my truck wasn't drivable, and I've never been the type to depend on anyone. After retaining the firm, I understood the process, and I know they did a great job. I would recommend them to anyone."

– Walker Bowen
Douglasville, GA

FAQ



Is it a good idea to carry the minimum amount of uninsured/underinsured motorist insurance (UM/UIM) coverage?

Carrying the minimum amount of UM/UIM can be a serious mistake. You should carry higher levels of this important coverage.

For a variety of reasons, many drivers today are getting behind the wheel without any auto insurance. If one of these uninsured drivers causes an accident that injures you and/or your family, you may be left with a woefully inadequate coverage for your medical bills. Consider that even a short stay in a hospital can lead to a bill that runs in the tens of thousands if not well over \$100,000. Plus, UM/UIM coverage is very inexpensive. If you have questions about your current policy or what coverage levels you may need to protect your family, contact our office. ■

Dover Law Firm
3650 Mansell Road, #100
Alpharetta, Ga. 30022
(770) 518-1133
www.DoverLawFirm.com

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NHTSA REVISES child safety seat recommendations

In keeping with the latest scientific and medical research as well as emerging child restraint technologies, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recently issued new age-focused child restraint guidelines.

Previously, the NHTSA's recommendations were focused on the type of child safety seat rather than the age of the child.

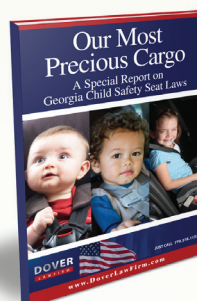
Under the new guidelines, the NHTSA urges parents and caregivers to keep children in each type of seat – rear-facing, forward facing and booster seats – for as long as possible before moving them up to the next type of seat.

The new guidelines, according to the NHTSA, are consistent with the latest recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, which advises parents to keep children in rear-

facing seats until the age of 2 or until they reach the highest weight and height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat.

If you have questions about the new recommendations, please visit the www.nhtsa.gov and click on the child safety icon. Once at the NHTSA site, you can also find up-to-date information on our state's specific child safety seat laws.

Let's keep our children as safe as possible. ■



Don't take chances with the safety of your children - request your free copy of "Our Most Precious Cargo" at DoverLawFirm.com. Look for it in the Free Reports section.

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