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A whole new look at
DoverLawFirm.com

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the good and the bad OF ANESTHESIA

All of us have witnessed or experienced firsthand the miracles of modern medicine. Whether it's your child whose broken leg was fixed up after he was hit by a car, the relative who had her life-threatening cancer successfully treated, or even when you had your impacted wisdom teeth removed, the fact is that at some point, we will all rely on medical professionals, including anesthesiologists, to perform their specialties with great care and expertise in order to maintain our quality of life.

Anesthesia, when properly administered, allows us to undergo a wide range of procedures that would otherwise be impossible if we had to feel the pain associated with surgery. And the vast majority of the time, there are no major complications associated with the use of anesthesia. However, mistakes can and do happen, and when they do, the results can be deadly.

Recently, the National Institute of Health provided an analysis of a report issued by the American Journal of Anesthesiology published in April 2009, which studied anesthesia deaths from 1995 to 2005. The report cited 2,211 deaths during that time period either directly related to anesthesia, or where anesthesia was a factor.

Several factors contribute to anesthesia mistakes, including:

- Insufficient or inaccurate medical history completed by the anesthesiologist.
- Poor monitoring of the equipment and/or the patients' status during the procedure.
- Inadequate training by the anesthesiologist or medical staff.
- Equipment malfunction.
- Failure to follow procedure.
- Lack of communication during the procedure between medical team members.
- Inaccurate dosing or dispensing of medication.

What happens when mistakes are made with anesthesia? Anesthesia mistakes can lead to low blood pressure or inadequate blood flow to major organs including the brain. These mistakes often are catastrophic, resulting in heart attack, stroke, paralysis, brain damage, or death. If the patient survives, the emotional and monetary costs of long term care and loss of income can be devastating. In many cases, family members are left mourning the death of a loved one, and struggling with the related emotional and financial impact that the loss brings.

Complicated medical procedures and records must be carefully studied by an experienced anesthesia malpractice attorney in order to protect your rights. If you or a loved one has been a victim of an anesthesia mistake, contact a malpractice attorney to discuss your rights. ■

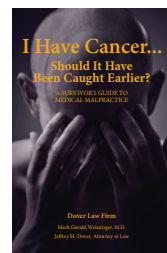
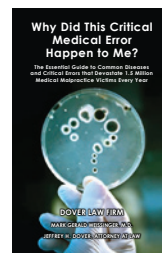
got questions? WE'VE GOT ANSWERS

At the Dover Law Firm we believe very strongly in the importance of providing quality information – not only for our clients but also for others who may just have a few questions or who may be considering hiring an attorney (or trying to determine if they even need one).

Let's face it; it can be a traumatic and confusing time if you've been involved in a car or truck wreck or if you or a family member has suffered injuries as a result of medical malpractice. You need access to accurate and timely information from a source you can trust.

In addition to the wealth of free information on our website, www.DoverLawFirm.com, where you can watch videos, check out frequently asked questions, review the types of cases we handle or just read through the many articles available, we wanted to let you know about a couple of exciting developments that will provide even more helpful information for you.

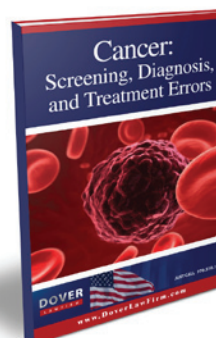
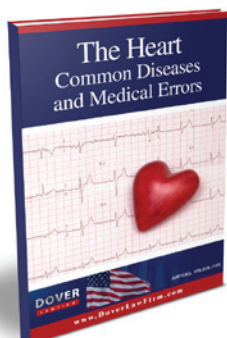
First, Attorney Jeffrey Dover has just completed three books and is making each of them available for FREE for a limited time to Georgia residents who request them. The books, one focused on common mistakes people make after an auto or truck accident, one that explains the symptoms, treatments and types of cancer (as well as what to do if your cancer has been misdiagnosed), and one that reveals the shocking truth about medical malpractice, all feature critical tips and guidelines to help protect the safety and security of you and your family.



Free books from the Dover Law Firm.

Next, Jeff has also just put the finishing touches on 16 special reports – also available for free – on topics ranging from typical insurance company tactics to surgical errors to nursing home negligence.

The free books and reports are available at DoverLawFirm.com or by calling 770-518-1133. ■



A few of the 16 special reports available for free at DoverLawFirm.com.

elder abuse

DON'T MISTAKE IT FOR ADULT DEMENTIA

We live and we age. It is inevitable. As we grow older, despite healthier living habits and preventive medicine, we fall victim to the maladies of age. For many people and for many reasons, care in the home is not an option, and families are sometimes forced to entrust the care of their loved ones to nursing homes or other long term care programs.

But what happens if you suspect your loved one is not being treated appropriately? According to the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA), you might not initially recognize signs of elder abuse. You might believe that the symptoms are signs of dementia or of frailty brought on by age. The caregivers may even explain them to you that way. While the symptoms of elder abuse can mimic those of adult dementia, be careful not to automatically assume that is the case.

According to the NCEA, it is critical to recognize these signs of abuse:

- Bruises, pressure marks, broken bones, abrasions, or burns.
- Unexplained withdrawal from normal activities or unusual depression.
- Bruises around the breasts or genital areas.

- Sudden changes in finances.
- Bedsores, unattended medical needs, poor hygiene, and unusual weight loss.
- Behavior such as belittling or threatening.
- Strained or tense relationships as well as frequent arguments between the caregiver and the elderly person.

As a loved one, watch for these warning signs. Be alert and visible to the staff at the facility. Ask questions. Visit as often as you can, and monitor finances and medications to ensure that they show no unusual changes.

If you suspect abuse is occurring, contact our office to discuss the situation and learn your rights. ■



What Our Clients Are Saying

"Dover Law Firm represented me in an automobile accident and a workers' compensation claim. I was very pleased with their services. They won a settlement of over \$144,000 for both cases. The people at the firm are very nice, and they helped me out a lot with my problems. I recommend the Dover Law Firm."

—Keith Hill

FAQ



I was hit by a car while riding my bicycle, and I suffered serious injuries. How can I get my medical bills paid?

The insurance company of the person who hit you would be responsible for past and future medical bills as well as past and future lost wages and past and future pain and suffering. If the at-fault party does not have insurance, you can still recover money through your own car insurance if you have uninsured motorist coverage. Contact an experienced personal injury to discuss your particular case. ■

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*Serving Atlanta
and all of Georgia*

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FREE BOOKS AND REPORTS FROM THE DOVER LAW FIRM.

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

A WHOLE NEW LOOK AT **DoverLawFirm.com** (AND A LOT MORE INFORMATION TO HELP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY, TOO!)

The Dover Law Firm is pleased to announce that we have just completed a major renovation of the firm's website.

Not only will visitors find a brand-new look that features updated graphics, easier-to-read text and simplified navigation, but you will also see tons of useful information, videos, free books and reports (see p. 2 of this newsletter), and even a live chat box so that you can get answers to your questions 24 hours a day.

Be sure to bookmark www.DoverLawFirm.com on your computer and check back often as we'll be adding helpful new content such as articles, blog posts, frequently asked questions, and videos on a regular basis. ■



Visit us at **www.DoverLawFirm.com**